

Mac FORMAT

All your Apple needs

NEXT GENERATION MACBOOKS

Why you'll love Apple's sexy new notebooks



FULL
REVIEWS
P76

ISSUE 202 December 2008

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

83 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

How to do it all on your Mac!

Do more in Photoshop



Make Pop Art out of your photos!

Make great sites in iWeb



Get your website up and running!

New reviews this issue

- 2.53GHz MacBook Pro
- Fatman Red-i speakers
- VMWare Fusion 2



Clean up your Mac

Clear out OS X's clutter for a faster Mac!



GROUP TEST



Creative Suite 4
The verdict on Adobe's latest

TUTORIAL



Back up your Mac
Keep your files safe & secure!

REVIEWED



MFD super test!
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Welcome



While PC manufacturers obsess over the emerging netbook market (light-weight and low-cost PCs capable of web browsing and email), Apple is once again thinking differently. With its new MacBook and MacBook Pro this month (see our reviews starting on page 76) Apple is making a stand in favour of quality products that come with an exclusive price tag.

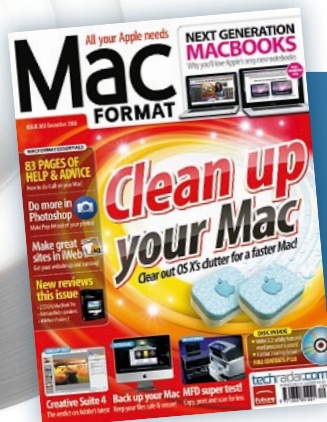
“I admire Apple’s refusal to compromise on quality just to make a quick buck”

Speaking at Apple’s recent fourth quarter results announcement, Apple CEO Steve Jobs was bullish about its product strategy: “I think that when people want a product of the class that we make, over and over again people have done the price comparisons and we’re actually quite competitive. So we choose to be in some segments of the market and we choose not to be in certain segments of the market.”

As frustrating as his stance is for people like me, who would love a cheap Mac netbook to appear, I have to admit that I admire Apple’s refusal to compromise on quality just to make a quick buck. Of course, Steve Jobs is the master of spin, and I wouldn’t rule out something from Apple in the netbook space after the Christmas period. Talking of the emerging netbook market Jobs said, “We’ll wait and see how that nascent category evolves, and we have got some pretty interesting ideas if it does evolve,” so watch this space.

This issue *MacFormat* is focused on the alternative to buying a pricey new MacBook – making the one you already have run faster by clearing out the debris that’s built up in OS X. Our guide to clearing the clutter starts on page 26. Let me know how you get on and I’ll see you again on 10 December when we’ll be showing you everything you need to know to upgrade your Mac yourself, without having to pay Apple to do it for you.

email: gbarlow@futurenet.co.uk



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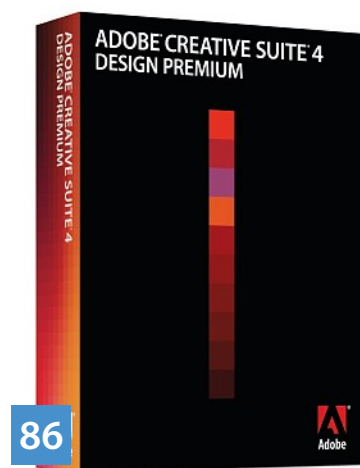
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All your Apple needs

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Adobe's latest reviewed

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Wireless wonders

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On your DVD!

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Games 124

Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare, plus check out the new ToCA3 Race Driver



MAC USER GROUPS

Turn to page 120 for our listing

Start up

MacFormat brings you all the best of this month's Apple chat



Meet the new MacBook family

Turn to
p76 for full
reviews

Apple's most powerful laptops yet are here, though UK prices disappoint

SNIPPETS

Faulty graphics

Apple has confirmed some MacBook Pros manufactured between May 2007 and September 2008 may contain faulty graphics cards. Symptoms include distorted video and/or no display. Affected customers are offered free repair, even when out of warranty.

Apple has upgraded its MacBook family with new consumer and professional models and new editions of the MacBook Air.

Company Chief Operating Officer Tim Cook stressed the importance of notebooks to Apple. "In the first three quarters of 2008, we've already equalled all the Macs shipped in 2007," he said. Laptops accounted for roughly 29% of Apple's total sales this year, analysts estimate.

The Macs are manufactured using a highly advanced new process, glass trackpads and boast speed demon graphics

in the form of NVIDIA's powerful GeForce 9400M (see box opposite).

"Traditionally, notebooks are made from multiple parts. With the new MacBook, we've replaced all of those parts with just one part – the unibody," said Jonathan Ive,

"Machines carve the case out of a single brick of aluminium, making the Macs more thinner and more durable than ever"

Apple's Senior Vice President of Industrial Design. The new manufacturing process replaces the multiple layers of metal that hold the components inside most laptops together with a single rigid precision-tooled shell. Machines carve the case out of a single brick of aluminium, making the Macs thinner and more durable than ever.

There's no button – instead the glass trackpad acts as one, making its usable space 40% larger than before. It accepts various gestures: two fingers to scroll vertically, pinch to zoom and swipe gestures that invoke more complex commands.

GRAPHICS GALORE | Inside the new GPU

Apple's latest laptops use NVIDIA's 65-nanometre GeForce 9400M as their main graphics processor (GPU). This promises performance many times better than the processor inside recent MacBooks. MacBook customers will see vastly improved graphics performance compared to Intel's

integrated GMA 950 processor, which was used in previous iterations of Apple's consumer range.

The GeForce 9400M includes 16 graphics pipes but takes just half the motherboard space, helping these MacBooks stay thin. It's compatible with NVIDIA's Hybrid SLI system, so you can switch to a separate GPU for better video performance, at some cost to battery life. That's why MacBook Pros also carry the GeForce 9600M GT GPU, which they can switch to for more intensive tasks.

Building up to Snow Leopard's Open CL technology, the 9400M can transact general computing tasks using spare processing cycles. This means that when Snow Leopard ships you should see instant performance gains from these Macs as they finally get to exploit spare cycles from the GPU's 54 gigaflops of processing power.



The displays are backlit LEDs, so they'll spring into life when you open the laptop, deliver better visuals and demand less power. Apple's green mission continues: the new notebook screens are free of arsenic and mercury, while the Macs contain no brominated flame retardants and use PVC-free internal cables.

Processors saw little attention. These max out at 2.53GHz in the most expensive MacBook Pro model, but all the other improvements in these systems make for tangible performance benefits.

Interconnects include the new Mini DisplayPort interface, two USB ports (one on the MacBook Air), AirPort Extreme and Gigabit Ethernet.

Now shipping

The new MacBook, 15-inch MacBook Pro and 17-inch MacBook Pro are now shipping and the new MacBook Air will be available in early November. An updated 13-inch white MacBook featuring a 2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, a 120GB 5,400rpm hard drive and a slot-loading 8x SuperDrive (rather than the Combo drive) is also available.

There were some disappointments, however. It was bad news for iMovie makers when Apple revealed that FireWire ports had been removed in all consumer models, bar the MacBook Pro. Does this mean that the days of the Apple-invented Academy Award-winning standard are coming to a close? Apple declined comment.

Any hopes that Apple plans to introduce Blu-ray were dashed on CEO Steve Jobs's

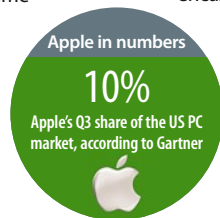
remark that the standard was a "bag of hurt", citing licensing issues and expense as the main barriers.

Isolated as the only model not created using the new manufacturing process, the 17-inch MacBook Pro simply got a larger hard drive, double the memory and a price increase, from £1,799 to £1,949.

Pre-event rumours signalling Apple would introduce an \$800 MacBook were always likely to be untrue, but for the UK at least Apple actually increased prices – where the entry level MacBook once cost £699, the equivalent now sets you back £719 – and is the last of the previous plastic encased models on the market. The

best MacBook costs £1,149, with the middle model at £949, the same price as the best model once cost. The two 15-inch MacBook Pros cost £1,399 and £1,749, £100 and £150 more than their previous equivalents. The 17-inch price climbs £150. The

cheaper MacBook Air now costs £1,299 (up £100). In truth, the only price reduction for UK customers is in the high-end solid state drive-equipped MacBook Air, now £1,799 from £2,028. New MacBooks do feature the new GeForce 9400M graphics chip, and we think NVIDIA's GPU is a crucial plank in Apple's future OS strategy (see box above). The new MacBook Pros carry a second graphics processor, the powerful GeForce 9600M GT, which delivers much higher video performance than user's can select when engaged in intensive tasks – gaming and video editing, for example. ●



DIALOGUE BOX

What they're saying about Apple

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com



"In terms of netbooks, that's a nascent market that's just getting started. We'll see how it goes."

Jobs seems cool on netbooks – we've seen him play it cool before, though – remember his comments on mobile phones?

STEVE WOZNIAK www.woz.org



"The iPod has sort of lived a long life at number one. Things like, that if you look back to transistor radios and Walkmans, they kind of die out after a while."

Steve Wozniak talks about consumption patterns with the *Telegraph*.

STEVE BALLMER www.microsoft.com



"(Apple) may have a cult following in the music business, and we got about 97 per cent of PC users using our stuff. 97 per cent may not constitute a cult!

But I wouldn't trade that for a cult!"

Ballmer puts us straight as Windows bleeds Vista.

NEEDHAM & CO. ANALYST www.needhamco.com



"The lock-in effect the iPhone software creates should insure a staggering installed base for the device. Apple sold over one million iPhones in its first weekend on the market; and the company could ship over five million in its September quarter."

Analyst insists iPhone is a game-changer.

AC/DC LEAD SINGER, BRIAN JOHNSON www.acdcrocks.com/



"Maybe I'm just being old-fashioned, but this *iTunes*, God bless 'em, it's going to kill music if they're not careful."

AC/DC says why the band won't sell music on iTunes.

ANTHONY ROSE, BBC ONLINE MEDIA, www.bbc.co.uk/blogs



"Unfortunately, Apple keeps its DRM technology close to its chest and has so far not licensed that technology to third parties. This means that as of today, it's not technically possible for us to make rights-protected BBC iPlayer programmes available for download from the iPlayer website in a format compatible with Apple devices."

BBC frustrated by Apple, but promise more news by the end of the year.

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to macformat@futurenet.com

Apple luxury versus practical necessity

The launch of new MacBooks is followed by an orgy of justification



CHRIS' COLUMN

I am the generally proud owner of a first-generation MacBook, bought to replace my trusty iBook G4 a couple of years ago. It's fast, capable, and, thanks to the ability to upgrade the hard disk with the minimum of fuss, more than capacious enough to hold all of my work, photographs, music and video.

I don't, in short, need a new laptop. But – and you'll know what I'm talking about here – 'need' doesn't have anything to do with it. As soon as the black cloth was whisked off the new MacBooks at Apple's Executive Briefing Centre, just round the corner from its flagship Regent Street store, my mind began the complex and self-deluding process designed to explain away the gaping £1,400 hole the new MacBook Pro I fancy would leave in my bank account.

It starts with "well, my wife's own iBook is 'BER' – beyond economical repair – so if I got a new MacBook Pro, she could have my MacBook". My wife is pleased

"My mind began the complex and self-deluding process designed to explain away the gaping £1,400 hole in my bank account"

with this state of affairs, and even pledges a couple of hundred quid to the fund. I've been doing a fair bit of freelance recently, so we could offset that against the price tag, too. Then again, my wife is a self-employed writer who also teaches, so perhaps she could buy it with her teacher's discount, and also claim it against tax. Hey, it's practically free, right? I then remember that this is both actually illegal (can you say 'tax fraud?') and ethically very dubious.

And then I remember that it's all utterly academic. I already own a laptop which is not merely 'good' but actually very competent. It's a testament to Apple's design, engineering and, yes, marketing genius that at a time when the economy is going down the pan, I'm indulging in this ridiculous consumerist charade.

Still, what the economy needs at a time like this is for cash to circulate, for consumer spending to boost the economy, so really, buying a new laptop would be practically a patriotic act.

Right? ●

Christopher is *MacFormat's* Deputy Editor. He's worried that Apple's new MacBooks mean he's going to have to learn how to play modern 3D games. That scares him.



PRODUCTIVITY SUITE

OpenOffice goes Mac OS X native

Compelling free alternative to Microsoft Office ships

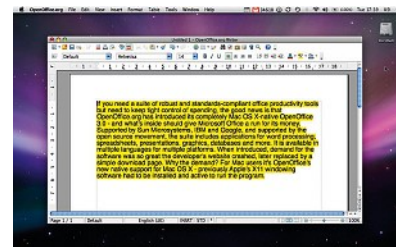
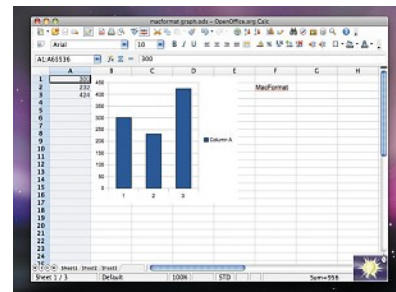
Do you require a suite of robust and standards-compliant office productivity tools, but have an equal need to keep tight control of spending? If the answer is yes, the good news is that *OpenOffice.org* has introduced its completely Mac OS X-native *OpenOffice 3.0* – and what's inside should give Microsoft Office a run for its money.

Supported by Sun Microsystems, IBM and Google, and supported by the open source movement, the suite includes applications for word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, graphics, databases and a whole lot more.

The suite is released under the Lesser General Public Licence (LGPL), which means it can be used freely for any purpose – whether that be personal, commercial, educational, or even within public administration. It's also available in multiple languages for multiple platforms.

When *OpenOffice.org* was first introduced, demand for the software was so great the developer's website crashed, later to be replaced by a simple download page. Why the demand? For Mac users at least, it's *OpenOffice.org's* new native support for Mac OS X. Previously Apple's *X11* windowing software had to be installed and active for Mac users to run the program.

The suite is accessed through a Start Center that guides users to the relevant application, while compatibility with Office



ABOVE TOP: You'll be hard pressed to find something Microsoft Office can do that *OpenOffice.org* can't. It really is that feature-packed.

ABOVE BOTTOM: Long-time users of Microsoft Word will have no trouble getting to grips with *OpenOffice's* word processor program.

2007/2008 has been much improved. OpenDocument Format (ODF) 1.2 support, charting, drawing and collaborative tools and enhanced XML support are available. Look out for our review next issue and head over to www.openoffice.org to download your copy, or install it directly from this month's *MacFormat* disc today. ●

NEW CINEMA DISPLAY

Apple's greenest display yet

Apple's LED Cinema Display twins the latest MacBooks



Apple has introduced the LED Cinema Display, custom-built for its new MacBook range. It offers a 24-inch backlit widescreen display (1,920x1,200 pixel resolution) with a built in iSight video camera, microphone and speakers, all housed in a sleek thin aluminium and glass case.

"The new LED Cinema Display is the most advanced display that Apple has ever

made", said Philip Schiller, SVP of Worldwide Product Marketing. Solely for use by current MacBook family owners (with the exception of the 17-inch model) the display features an integrated MagSafe charge and the new Mini DisplayPort. You'll also find three self-powered USB 2.0 ports, so you can reclaim your laptop ports.

Free of PVC wiring, brominated flame retardants, mercury and arsenic, Apple calls the display the greenest yet. It meets Energy Star 4.0 requirements and boasts EPEAT Gold status (a standard measure of environmental performance). The display ships in November and costs £649. ●

SURFIN' SAFARI

Web browsing on a Mac gets better

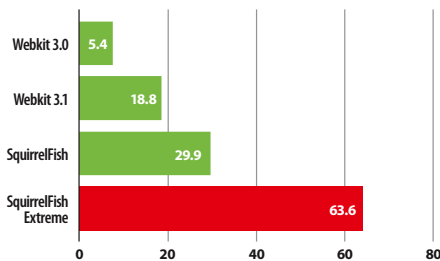
In-development Safari 4 promises us ten times the performance

What a great time for web browsing on a Mac! With Mozilla continuing to improve Firefox, news has now come from Apple's Safari development camp that work on Safari 4 promises the fastest browsing experience yet on a Mac.

The developers of the WebKit engine used by Safari have introduced a much faster rendering solution called SquirrelFish Extreme, a new JavaScript engine that vastly improves the browser's speed. Its inclusion means that in future Mac users can expect speeds up to ten times that of Safari today.

There's been much recent activity in the development of JavaScript for browsers recently, with Google's Chrome boasting its lightning quick V8 JavaScript rendering and Firefox's Gecko team constantly optimising their code.

The current rendering solution, WebKit 3.0, offers just 8.5% of the performance promised by SquirrelFish Extreme – but this could be even better. "We believe the architecture has room for lots more optimisation, and we'd love to see more developers and testers pitch in," the



WebKit's JavaScript performance across versions – bigger bars are better.

developers wrote on the Surfin' Safari blog. Safari 4 recently scored a perfect maximum in the challenging Acid 3 Web standards test.

Outside Cupertino, Apple developers have been working with Safari 4 since June. Early feedback confirms the browser is faster and more robust on all platforms, with some excitement at one new feature which lets you save a page as a web application that can be run outside of Safari and (in some cases)

even when offline. Think of this as the Mac equivalent of an iPhone web app. ●



SNIPPETS

OU success as Oxford/Cambridge join iTunes U

Oxford and Cambridge Universities have both made a selection of their educational content available free of charge through iTunes U, while the Open University announced it saw over 1 million pieces of its own educational materials downloaded through iTunes U within just four months of joining Apple's educational service. Available through iTunes, iTunes U offers a large repository of free learning resources.



Apple Store – Covent Garden

Apple will next year begin construction of its third London retail store in Covent Garden. The re-fit begins in January 2009, according to planning documents filed with Westminster Council. The store may not open until 2010, these papers suggested.

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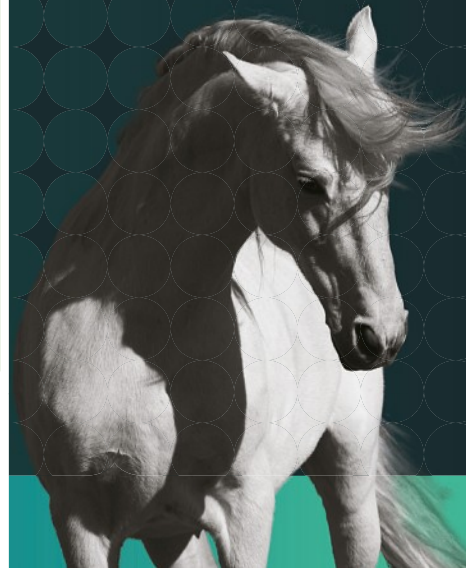
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Less choice was never the Apple way...

Brad Gibson thinks Apple's killing FireWire and ripping off customers



ACROSS THE POND...

Apple has decided to drop the FireWire port on its new MacBook models and in the process has stabbed many a loyal customer square in the wallet. And this is the watered down language of how I really feel after five edits.

If you don't possess an external FireWire device, you're lucky. But if you're among the millions worldwide that do own a fully functioning, FireWire-equipped digital video camera, hard drive or a multitude of other peripherals, then upgrading to a new Mac laptop will be a tough decision.

Your choices are these: a new MacBook without a FireWire port for between £949 and £1149, or the more expensive MacBook Pro with FireWire starting at the princely sum of £1399.

So why is Apple doing this? The only excuse came straight from the top, CEO Steve Jobs: "All new HD camcorders use USB." True, but a bunch of camcorders on the market – from consumer to professional – still

"What makes me angry is that Apple is now deciding what is right for me when it comes to connectivity instead of giving me a choice"

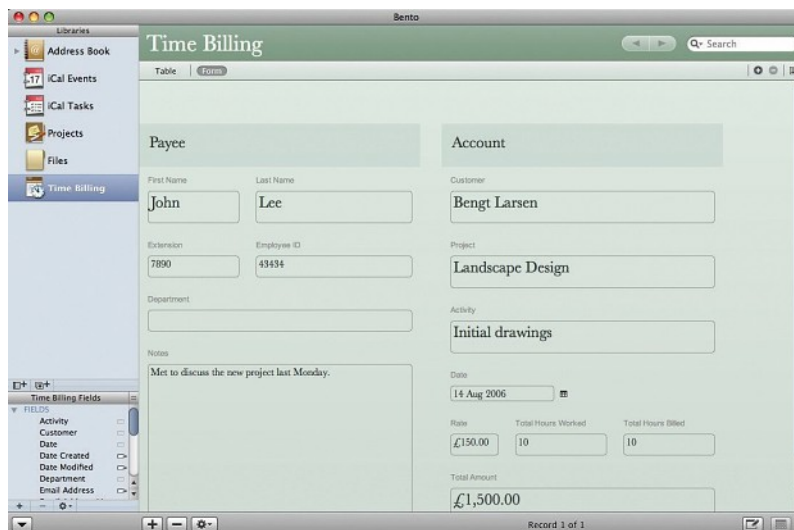
use FireWire exclusively. I personally own a FireWire-only Canon GL-1 that is still very much in use.

What makes me really angry is that Apple is now deciding what is right for me when it comes to connectivity instead of giving me a choice. This is from the company that purports to be all about choice.

This is not about a technology that's dead or even near dying. It's still being used by many more devices than, say, the 3.5-inch floppy drive was when Apple ditched it for the CD-ROM drive a number of years back. Apple first added FireWire in 1999 when Jobs uttered, "And it's already an industry standard." Well, I've got news for you, Steve: FireWire still is!

I don't want to hear from Apple that it's doing this because of 'customer demand'. Don't insult me. There's plenty of physical room on the new MacBook to put a FireWire connector. Dropping FireWire from the MacBook only serves to force people into buying the MacBook Pro. This is pure marketing and Steve Jobs and Apple should be ashamed of it. ●

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via iTunes or from www.macformat.co.uk.



PRODUCTIVITY APPS

Bento 2 to go

FileMaker updates its personal databasing application

FileMaker has introduced *Bento 2*, introducing support for *Mail*, *Excel*, *Numbers* and *AppleWorks* to its award-winning personal databasing application. *Bento 2* is just as simple to use as the preceding version – you don't need any programming knowledge to quickly build your own databases – and its iTunes-like user interface makes for simplicity itself.

Users can export spreadsheet data from *Excel* and *Numbers* directly into *Bento 2* and also import *Bento 2* data into similar spreadsheet apps. Tab-delimited data files are also supported. You can efficiently catalogue names and addresses, events, projects and so much more. You can export

databases to share with others and create relationships between different *Bento* databases if you want your family database, for example, to be able to summon information from your contacts list.

There's 10 new themes and the facility to share templates with other users through the *Bento* Template Exchange. *Bento 2* ships with a wide selection of database templates, and a feature that allows for the sharing of self-made templates with other users. These features also mean you can upload and download styles and themes. *Bento 2* costs £29, or £59 for a family pack of five licences. For further details, see www.filemaker.co.uk. ●



Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

Few, if any, stocks have avoided a mauling in the last few weeks as the whole global economy has headed to hell in a hand basket. Having already dropped 26.7% in a month, Apple stock has dropped 31% more since mid-

September and is now sub-\$100. But when huge businesses like GM have hovered at levels not seen since the 1950s, it's hardly surprising Apple has taken a dive. The question is: where is the bottom? So far in October, Apple has prompted three analyst notes and in all cases the target price for the shares has been reduced to between \$135 and \$145 from previous target prices of between \$213 and \$180 – a big fall from a once lofty perch.

Apple continues to roll out revamped products, but this is unlikely to do anything for the share price in the current financial climate. In a bull market Apple looks set to change the world but in a bear market it looks like a seller of novelty consumer electronics. As the global economy hangs in the balance, so does Apple and the rest of us.

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The iPhone 3G is undoubtedly the best mobile phone on the planet, so we're delighted to give you a chance to win the very best model there is, the top-of-the-line 16GB model. Best of all, we're offering the phone on Pay As You Go, so you don't even have a contract to pay; you just pop in an O2 PAYG SIM and only pay for the calls you make. O2 even gives PAYG iPhone 3G owners a year's free unlimited data and access to The Cloud and BT Openzone WiFi hotspots.

One criticism of the iPhone 3G, however, has been that it's so much fun to use that the battery doesn't last long. Kensington to the rescue, then, with its superb Mini Battery Pack and Charger, which is a rechargeable pack you plug into the bottom of your iPhone 3G to give it more juice when you're running low. The company is also offering

an essential car kit, including a handy mount – the Power Port Mount – and an in-car charger to make sure you never run out of power with your iPhone 3G again.

Find out more about these and other Kensington products at <http://uk.kensington.com>.

THE QUESTION

To be in with a chance of winning these fantastic prizes, simply answer the following question correctly using one of the methods outlined in the box to the right.

Which company is the iPhone 3G's official carrier in the UK?

- A) AT&T
- B) Vodafone
- C) O2

HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, you can either text KENSINGTON followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at www.macformat.co.uk and click on the Competition link.
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- Texts will be charged at £1 plus your standard network tariff rate.
- Competition closes on 9 December 2008.

The wonderful world of widgets

We've played with the latest widgets, and put the top four on your disc



The Simpsons Quote Box

www.gregsalesto.com
This displays famous quotes from *The Simpsons* TV shows and films. It randomly selects a quote from a database of almost 2,000, displaying these in *Dashboard*.



Aquarium

<http://t-h-e-d-a-s-h-b-o-a-r-d.blogspot.com>
Remember the ever-popular aquarium screensavers? Now you can get hold of them as a *Dashboard* widget. "Relax, watch the Aquarium and chill out with ambient music."



Matt Cutting Assistant

www.EverybodyLovesCourtney.com
Graphic designers should love this. **Matt Cutting Assistant** calculates matt dimensions for you. This widget is ideal for any artist or framing store.



Exhibitions Widget

www.exhibithire.co.uk
This is your one-stop shop for upcoming UK exhibitions and trade shows – view all listed shows and exhibitions or filter by subject categories such as arts, fashion, or technology.

ONLINE MEDIA

Adobe and Flash out of iPhone

Microsoft Silverlight 2 ships for Mac, but not iPhone

Microsoft is now shipping its *Silverlight 2* software for Intel Macs, Windows and Linux systems, the latest version of its alternative to *Flash*.

Introducing the software product – widely used by some broadcasters in order to offer shows for online viewing – Microsoft Vice President Scott Guthrie claimed: "NBCOlympics.com, powered by *Silverlight*, had more than 50 million unique visitors, resulting in 1.3 billion page

views, 70 million video streams and 600 million minutes of video watched."

This release is more stable and better-featured than before, with Microsoft making the software more open for developers and boasting improved network and DRM support.

Guthrie said Microsoft is "very interested" in introducing *Silverlight* support for the iPhone, but "Apple ultimately controls what software runs on [it]." And so far, as with *Flash*, Apple won't permit it. ●



Microsoft celebrates its successes delivering web content to users via *Silverlight*.

EVENTS DIARY

ADOBE MAX EUROPE

1-4 December

Set to take place in Milan, Italy, Adobe Max is the event for Adobe designers and developers of digital creative work. <http://max.adobe.com>

MACWORLD SAN FRANCISCO

5-9 January

The essential annual event in any Mac user's calendar – if you can't be there you'll hear the news emerging from it. www.macworldexpo.com

BETT, LONDON

14-17 January

The annual show for ICT in education, and Apple customarily has a major presence here. Often the first place in the UK to see newly-announced Apple solutions. www.bettshow.com

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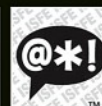
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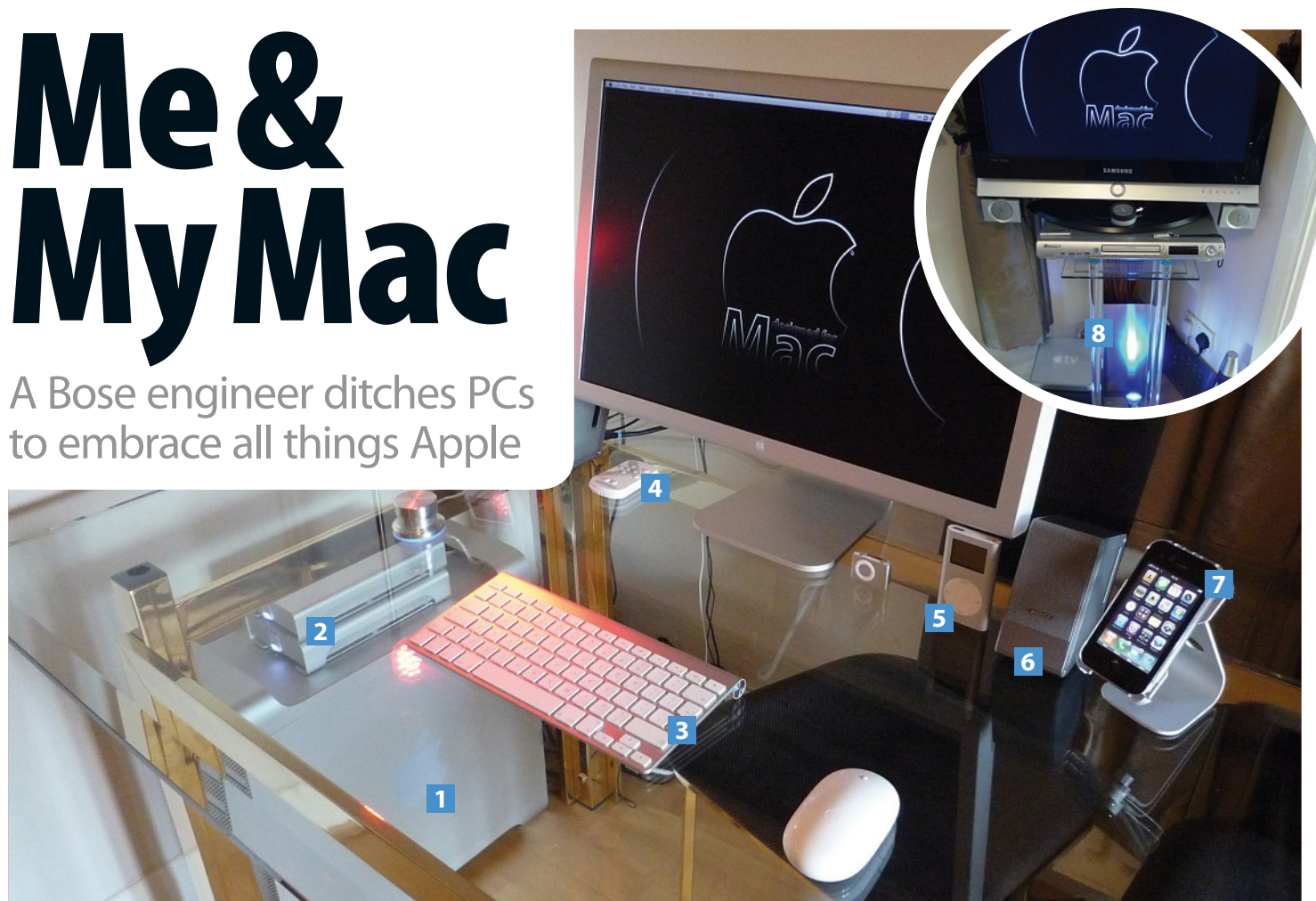
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Me & My Mac

A Bose engineer ditches PCs to embrace all things Apple



1 Apple Mac Pro dual 3GHz, 10GB RAM

This is a monster of a Mac, capable of burning through Laurence's work.

2 G-DRIVE Q Quad

The clever thing about these external hard disks is that they use passive heatsink cooling. No fans!

3 Apple Wireless Keyboard

This keyboard feels fantastic, and the batteries last for ages; invest in rechargeables all the same.

4 Keyspan Express Remote

The Mac Pro doesn't have an IR receiver for *Front Row*, so you have to add one; this model has proved popular.

5 Apple iPod mini 4GB

This is by no means Laurence's only iPod, but if he's anything like us at *MacFormat*, it'll be a favourite!

6 Bose Micro Music Monitor speakers

Did you expect a Bose sound engineer to have Creative speakers on his desktop?

7 Apple iPhone

Laurence's iPhone is crammed with add-on apps, and quite right too; the joy of Apple's pocket computer is its easy expandability.

8 Apple TV

Hooked up to a pair of Bose Companion 3 speakers, this Apple TV is at the centre of Laurence's media hub. That's a big screen!

Laurence Pierce had been using a PC for 13 years before he finally gave up. "Using Windows XP, compared to Leopard, is like going back ten years in time." We couldn't agree more, and we're sure you feel the same.

"When I was last forced to use a Dell laptop, I decided to accept the fact that it was time to use a PC at home, but after many hours trying to get it to play nice, I came home from work to find that the internet wasn't working again," he says. "Enough was enough. I opened my kitchen door that leads into the patio garden, grabbed the Dell laptop and threw it onto the patio. It seemed to survive this, so I placed the remains against the wall, then



Name: Laurence Pierce
Occupation: Bose Sound Engineer
Been using a Mac for: Three years
Favourite hardware: iPhone
Favourite software: iLife, CS3, Lightroom

jumped up and down on them. I had forgotten that I was only wearing my bedroom slippers, which explains why I found it hard to walk the next day. I do still find the odd keyboard letter in the garden from time to time as a reminder of the days of Windows frustration.

"Using Leopard or any Mac program is so easy, as well as being far more advanced. The introduction of Intel to Macs enables a Mac machine to undertake all of the functions

that a Windows machine does."

While Laurence does use his Mac for his day job at Bose – "it's faster and easier, and when I use *iSync* and *iCal*, I can get all of my reminders and contacts to sync with my mobile

"Enough was enough. I opened my kitchen door, grabbed the Dell laptop and threw it onto the patio"

phone," he says – it's at home that it gets used the most. He's a big fan of MobileMe, and ably demonstrates that the Mac can use professional and consumer solutions side by side: "I use *Bridge* from *Creative Suite 3* to input my pictures, then enhance them within *Adobe Lightroom* or *Aperture*; I can then further tinker with the picture in *Photoshop CS3*. When I'm done, I export the pictures to *iPhoto* and send them to the web gallery in MobileMe."

It's not just his Mac that plays an important part in Laurence's life. "I've

recently purchased a 16GB iPhone 3G, and it fully integrates with my Mac systems as well as my XP PC at work," he says. "It stores around 200 Bose product PDFs as well as some *PowerPoint* product images, so I can move files around from my home or office and view these files when I'm out of the office.

"I've also loaded it up with a suite of three sound applications by Faber Acoustical. I've tested these audio applications with my work's professional tools of the same type, and the iPhone versions are very accurate. This enables me to work on a site, set up a sound system, and test the installed sound system straight away with my iPhone." ●

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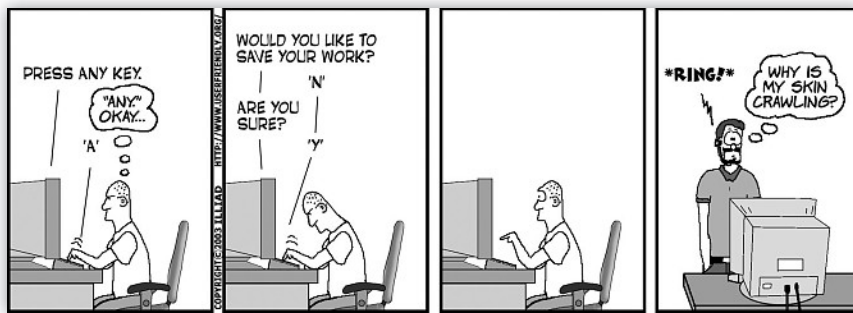
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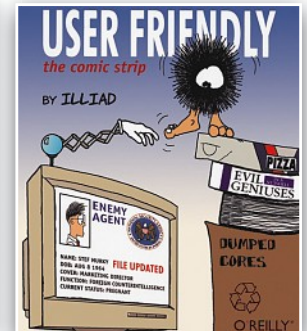
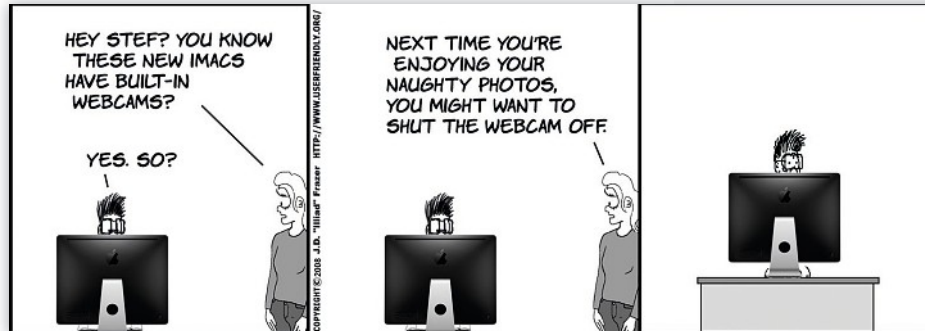
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ABOVE: "Most strips have some basis in reality," says JD, "perhaps from what people say or do, particularly in IT and geekdom. You can't make up the crazy stuff people do in this world!"

RIGHT: Macs make good "straight men" according to JD, and are "very cool machines". This attitude has nothing to do with his recent switch from Windows. Honest.



Words Craig Grannell

I use my Mac for... creating cartoon strips



PROFILE

Name: JD 'Illiad' Frazer
Location: Vancouver, Canada
Occupation: Cartoonist, CEO
System(s): iMac
Web: www.userfriendly.org

We talk to the man behind comic User Friendly

MacFormat: What do you use your Mac for?

JD Frazer: Everything production related. My app of choice is *Photoshop*, which is a familiarity thing – I used to work in print publishing. The iMac is also the machine on which I write my novels.

MF: You switched from a PC earlier this year. What advantages has your Mac brought?

JDF: It just works. While wearing my cartoonist hat, I'm a production slave and need to have my apps working all of the time. It's like comparing quality of service between your standard copper-wire telephone landline and chatting over the internet. The iMac gives quality of service like the landline. No garbling, echoing, or dropping off... This was well demonstrated when we moved house. My wife plugged in the iMac's

power, keyboard and mouse, powered it up, and it was talking to our wireless hub almost right away.

MF: How and why did the *User Friendly* comic start?

JDF: The how and the why are the same: I used to doodle to relax. At the time, I was co-founder of a boutique ISP, and the employees there made for great characters in a cartoon strip. I had no intention for *User Friendly* to become insanely popular. Even now, after 11 years, I'm still mildly astonished.

MF: Is hard to draw a daily cartoon?

JDF: It's not easy but it's not that hard either. The way I look at it, if I'm going to be making a living out of this, I want to be as professional as possible. I make it a point to set goals for myself that syndicated cartoonists have to observe.

MF: Has it affected your life?

JDF: Cartooning about geekdom has led to interesting consulting work in corporate communications. When IT go to war with marketing or executives, it's largely because they're not talking the same language.

MF: What's the future for *User Friendly* and you?

JDF: I'll keep writing it for a while yet – it's a lot of fun and there's never a lack of material because technology keeps changing and improving, and people keep doing stupid things with it. Macs will increasingly be involved in *User Friendly*, because they make great straight men. There's not a lot that's funny about them, though, because they're very cool machines – unless you want to talk about that ridiculous single-button puck mouse, but all the jokes I can think of about it are pretty rude. ●

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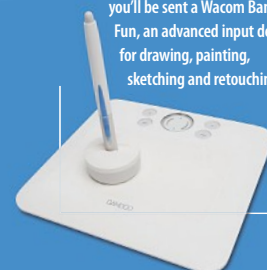
Letters

Write in and let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat magazine and everything Apple

WRITE AND WIN!

MacFormat Star Letter prize

Email all your letters to us at macformat@futurenet.co.uk – if yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a Wacom Bamboo Fun, an advanced input device for drawing, painting, sketching and retouching!



CLIPBOARD

"I am totally in love with my Mac. I love how everything is so fast and convenient – shortcuts, trackpad and Exposé! I just get so frustrated when I use Windows again."
Cell

"Thank you for your October issue, particularly the '20 essential programs' and also '10 quick tips'. These sections are most informative and useful."

John Foster

"Thanks for a great podcast and a great magazine."
Richard Leggett

OPENOFFICE 3

I have just tried to run *OpenOffice.org* from the included MacFormat disc; it won't open. Referencing the *OpenOffice.org* mailing list, it seems that *OpenOffice.org* X11 v.2/X11 is broken under Leopard (mine is 10.5.5), and that *OpenOffice.org* v.3 (Aqua) is required. Incidentally, the Aqua version runs natively without the need for X11. I just thought you might want to inform readers of this.

David Gallanders

MacFormat replies: Thanks, David, the latest news is that *OpenOffice.org* has now updated to a full version 3 which runs natively in OS X. You'll find version 3 of this great free office suite on the disc this month, and look out for a full review next issue.

VLC MEDIA PLAYER

I saw your item on the *VLC Media Player* on page 64 of the 200th issue of



You'll find the fully OS X-native *OpenOffice.org* version 3 on this month's disc, so there's no need for X11.

MacFormat, and would like to remind your readers of another use for this program. The DVD player on my iMac running Mac OS X 10.4 is set by default to play Region 2 discs and is able to switch between Region 2 and other

regions, but only five times, after which it locks permanently on the last selected region. However, opening a DVD in VLC overcomes this restriction and plays discs in any region regardless of how often switches are carried out.

Bernard Watson

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the tip, Bernard. We're sure many readers will find this useful.

DATA CDS

How about an update, if there has been any progress, on the lifetime of data stored on optical DVDs and CDs?

I assume (well, I hope) that my JPEG photos and Word docs will be readable in 25 or 50 years time, but how about my DVDs and CDs? Will their data have disappeared?

I read somewhere that cheap discs may only last for two years before data started to drop out, that branded disks

★STAR LETTER | APPLE VS MICROSOFT

I have, with interest, noted some of the negative comments about MobileMe in the press. And for what it's worth, here are my experiences with MobileMe and a similar product from Microsoft called Outlook Live.

I have had a yearly subscription to Outlook Live for some three years now, but over the past six months I have suffered ongoing synchronisation issues.

I first emailed the Microsoft helpdesk, but unfortunately never received a reply, so I then decided try my luck on the phone. My experiences here can only be described as farcical. Firstly, nobody at Microsoft had ever heard of the product for which they had been charging me an annual fee of

£39.99. I was then bounced around their switchboard listening to endless automotive messages for over 30 minutes. This culminated in finally getting to speak to a human who gave me a phone number to call – that subsequently didn't exist.

At last I got to speak with someone from the Outlook helpdesk who, after logging on to my PC, managed to lose a large part of my data and convinced himself that the problem was fixed. This third-rate support process was repeated several times and, to date, the software still fails to function properly. In fairness, everyone I have spoken to over the past few months at Microsoft has been very helpful and polite, but this, in my view, is

worthless if they can't actually solve the problem.

I also have a PowerBook, so I decided to try the free MobileMe trial for 60 days as an alternative; after signing up I again suffered synchronisation issues. However, this time my email was answered very promptly with an easy-to-follow solution to my problem.

I judge any business by the way the company reacts to resolve an issue when a customer has a genuine problem that requires support – not when things are running smoothly. Well done and thank you, Apple. Sorry, Microsoft, you need to brief your staff on the products you sell and sharpen up your support act.

Chris Jones



Have you had a good or bad experience with support staff? Let us know at macformat@futurenet.com.

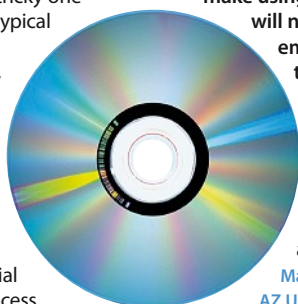
MacFormat replies: Thanks for your letter relaying your experiences of the two systems, Chris. While it doesn't excuse the outages of service that MobileMe customers experienced, it does help put things in perspective.

(presumably Sony, TDK and the like) should last for ten years or more, whilst Kodak gold disks should last for 100 years.

Magnetic tape was said to be the best medium for longevity.

Brian Jones

MacFormat replies: This is a tricky one to answer. For example, a typical CD-R has a lifespan of between 10 and 100 years, but it does depend on the quality of the discs you're using, the quality of your CD writer, and the conditions in which the disc have been stored. However, recent testing has revealed that substantial degradation of discs (a process known as CD rot) can happen in as little as 18 months under normal storage conditions. So, it would make sense to burn a new copy every year or so if you're going to use CD as a backup medium. Every backup media will eventually fail, but you might want to consider online backup as a secure option.



KUDOS FROM THE US

Well, I've been reading your magazine for a little over a year now and have finally decided to write in and compliment you on the fine content I've been absorbing since discovering *MacFormat*. It is always chock-full of interesting articles and how-tos that make using my Mac a hobby that I will never tire of. I'm

embarrassed to say that the Mac magazines here in the US pale to your publication, and I will continue to pay a premium (almost \$16 USD) for your fine magazine. Cheers from across the pond.

Mark Anderson, Tucson, AZ USA

MacFormat replies: Thanks for the compliments, Mark, we're glad the magazine is hitting the spot for you! Don't forget we have a special subscription offer for our US readers that enables you to save money and also pay in dollars. See page 96 for more details. ●

BULKY IPOD CASES

I have owned various Apple products for a while now, including my 80GB video iPod, which holds most of the music I regularly listen to. As a consequence, I don't have a standalone CD player at home and have been browsing the market place for an iPod dock.

This brings me to my problem; all the docks that I have seen don't take into account that the majority of iPods will have some sort of protective cover. I have mine encased in a silicon iSkin, an ideal cover as I use the iPod at work and it kicks around in my rucksack but is well protected from any scratches or other damage.

However, if I want to use it in a dock, with all the decent ones that I have looked at, I would need to peel the cover off in order to insert it into most of the docks that are available as they only have the space available to take a 'naked' iPod. This is an inconvenience too far to be undertaken on an almost daily basis, as it is not a two-minute task to remove and replace the cover, but the level of protection it provides is what I require.

I am sure that I am not the only one who struggles to find a solution, as when I enquire at various outlets and shops there is invariably someone else who has had the same problem. Perhaps an item on this particular problem would strike a chord with a large number of your readers.

Jon Sawyer



Some older iPods may not fit in newer docking stations; take your iPod to the Apple Store to try them out before buying.

MacFormat replies: You'll find most iPod speaker docks are designed to accommodate the chunkier, older iPods, so will normally also fit a more modern iPod fitted with a case. The fifth-gen iPod, however, is still quite wide compared to today's iPods. The best solution is to take a trip to your local Apple Store with your iPod in its case and try it out the various speaker docks they have on display to see if you can find one that it fits.

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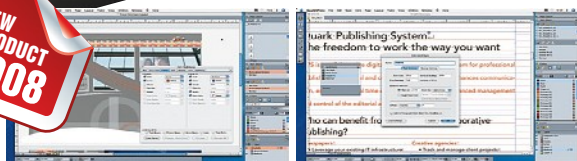
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Words Hollin Jones Illustrations Magictorch

Clean up your Mac

Even the most fastidious user's Mac will get clogged up with clutter. Dealing with it isn't as daunting as you may think...



Find related software on this issue's disc.

One of the best things about owning a Mac is that they have a long life span. Much longer, in fact, than your average Windows PC. This isn't just down to good engineering on Apple's part, but also the fact that the company makes new versions of OS X compatible with older Macs as far as is reasonably possible.

If you buy a well specified Mac and fill it with RAM, there's no reason it shouldn't perform as your main machine for many years. The Power Mac G5 on which this is being written, for example, is approaching five years old and still more than capable of running as

the heart of a music production studio with the latest software. It is, however, getting rather full. The one thing that no operating system can do for you is clean up the clutter than inevitably builds over years of Mac use. A system that deleted

"There are some great tools and techniques you can employ to clear out the rubbish and reclaim space"

things without you asking it to would be pretty hard to trust. Quite apart from making things harder to find and manage, a cluttered system will slow down and can be more prone to

problems than a lean machine. Luckily, there are some great free tools available and some tips and tricks you can employ to clear out the rubbish and reclaim valuable space on your Mac. This will have the advantages of both speeding it up and extending its working life. Read on to find out how it works... ►





Identifying the clutter

It's easier than you think to find out what's eating up space on your Mac

QUICK TIP



Sensible installing

Be prudent about what you install on your Mac. If you're unlikely to use something, don't install it. Most programs install library files and some even startup items that slow your system down, even after deleting the main application.

Apple pioneered the idea of a Desktop containing files and folders with the earliest versions of the Mac OS, and the basic idea has not only remained but also been adopted by practically every other computing system. On a computer, it's hard to tell at a glance if a machine is chock-full of stuff. The Desktop might be neat and tidy, but just a few folders down the system could be overflowing with files.

Get the info

The **Get Info** window is your best friend when it comes to looking at the sizes of items on your Mac. You can select any item and press **⌘+I** to view its properties. You can also view an item's size if you **Quick Look** a folder or drive in OS X 10.5 by pressing [Spacebar]. If you

open any **Finder** window and choose **List** view, you can click the **Size** column to order the items by size, though you may have to activate **View > View Options > Calculate All Sizes** to force OS X to display folder sizes initially. It may take a moment to update itself, but this will give you an overview of the biggest folders on the system, which are likely to be your **User**, **Applications** and **Library** folders. Within your **User** folder, probable culprits for clutter include your **Documents** folder

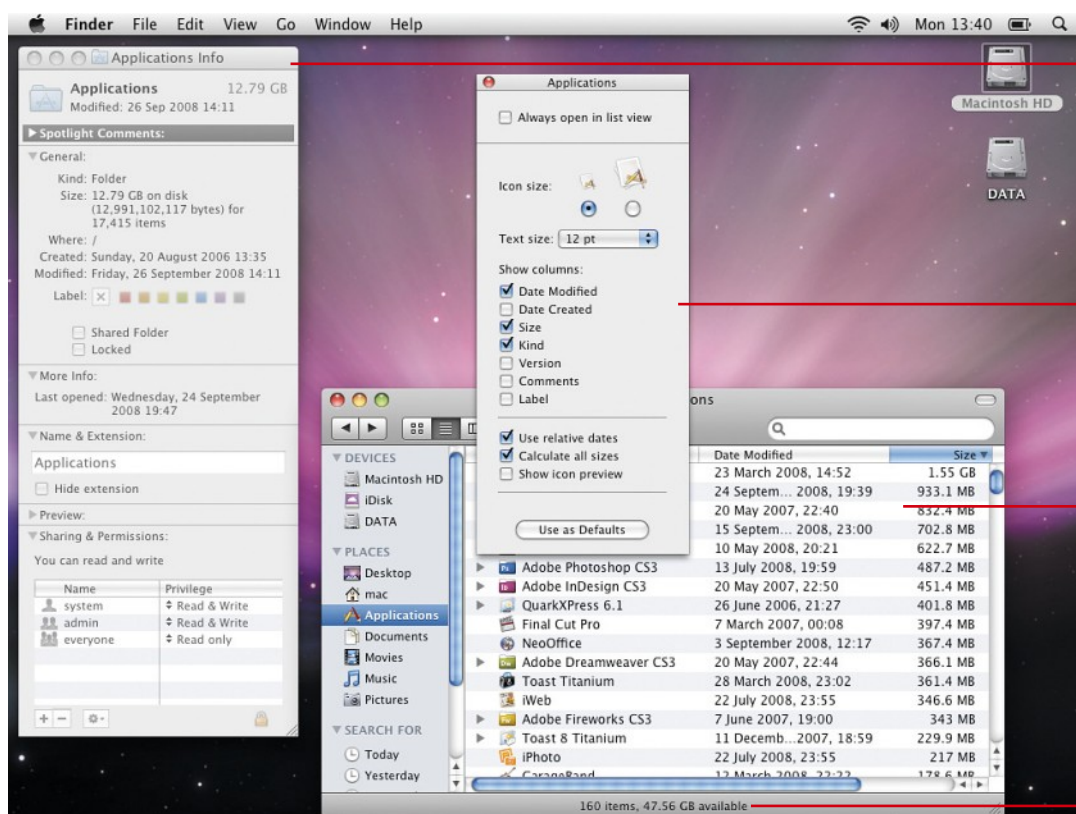
plus all media folders – **Music**, **Pictures** and **Movies**. The more you work with any particular media, the more likely that folder is to be full.

OS X and the apps that run on it sometimes decide where to store things on the hard drive, because, in most cases, you wouldn't want to be prompted every couple of minutes and asked what you thought. These things build up over time and take up valuable space.

There are several usual suspects when it comes to gradual build-up, but they are easy to identify. If you use **Apple Mail**, you can soon accrue a lot of mails and, with attachments, these can start to take up more space than you realise. Go to your **Home** folder > **Library** > **Mail** and perform a **Get Info** on the **Mail** folder to see its size. You may also see a **Mail**

"The Desktop might be neat and tidy, but just a few folders down the system could be overflowing with files"

TOP FEATURES | Where to find the clutter culprits



The Get Info window

A quick way to see the size of any file or folder on your Mac is to bring up the **Get Info** window. In **Finder** go to **File > Get Info**, or press **⌘+I**.

View Options window

The **View Options** window gives you several options to choose for **Finder** windows. Tell it to always calculate item sizes in **Finder** windows.

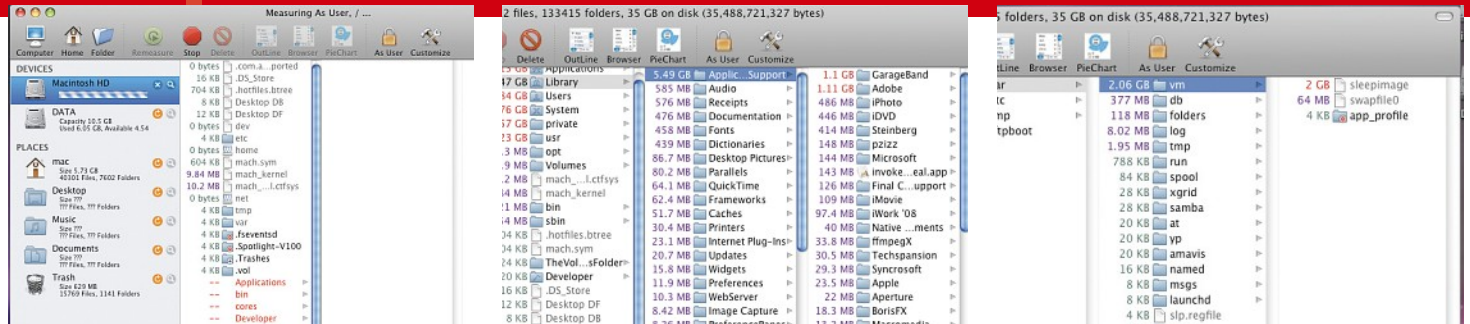
Column view

When in **Column** view, you can choose to sort the contents of any folder hierarchically by size, by selecting the **Size** bar along the top.

Available space

Every **Finder** window will display along the bottom edge the file count of the current folder and space remaining on the drive.

STEP BY STEP How to find large files using WhatSize



01 Download and install *WhatSize* from the disc. The license allows unlimited measuring and the free trial allows up to 20GB of measurement. Physical volumes are shown at the top-left and major folders displayed beneath them. Select a drive and the program will begin to measure it. Folders shown in red are waiting to be calculated.

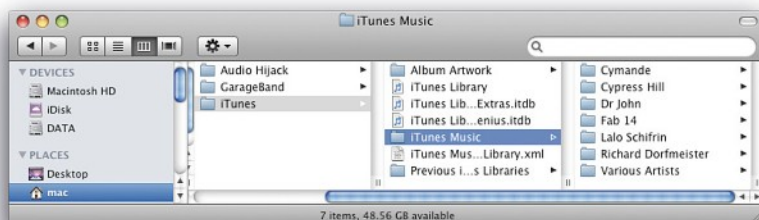
02 Folders are listed in order of size and shown in **Column** view so it's easy to spot the space hoggers. Here, for example, the *GarageBand* loops are taking up over a gigabyte of space. If you want you can select a folder and use the delete command in *WhatSize*, though you should be careful not to throw away anything vital to the system.

03 There are several views available including a pie chart option to show you how space is used. Laptop users note: the large *sleepimage* file in *private > var > vm* is normal and does not need to be deleted. This is a file equivalent to the amount of RAM that your laptop uses to preserve data in the event of a battery drain. ●

Downloads folder, containing those attachments you have chosen to save using *Mail's* **Save** button. Note that this isn't the best place to delete mail, just to view its size. To delete messages, open *Mail* and drag the relevant messages to the **Trash** folder, then empty it using *Mailbox > Erase Deleted Messages* or by right-clicking on the **Trash** folder. To sort the messages and see all those with attachments – likely to be the largest in size – right-click in *Mail's* **Subject** bar and choose to view attachments, then click the new **Attachments** column to sort the list. Remember that if you're unsure about deleting mail, you can drag the messages into a folder on the Desktop first and burn it to a disc. Microsoft *Entourage* keeps its mails in a big, monolithic database file, so the same procedure is necessary – drag mails to the Trash in *Entourage* and empty it.

Keep an eye on iLife

Each *iLife* app has its own Trash bin. So even if you empty the main Trash, deleted material from *iLife* programs may remain. To delete this material, locate the Trash in *iPhoto*, *iMovie*, *iDVD* and the others and manually empty it. Sometimes the Trash isn't obvious – in *iDVD*, choose **Advanced > Delete Encoded Assets**.



The *iTunes Music* folder is one that can quickly get very full, so keep an eye on its size – it can be a real system hog.



iLife applications have their own trashes, separate from the main OS X Trash, so be sure to periodically empty them.

iTunes is a space hog; music, videos and podcasts linger even if they're never played. Find out whether you have *iTunes* set to copy music when you add it. Go to **Preferences > Advanced** and look for **Copy files to iTunes Music folder when adding to library**. If this is switched on and you have been dragging folders of music into *iTunes*, it will have been duplicated; *iTunes* will be playing the version it placed into the music folder, not the original. In this case, locate the

originals by running a Find (⌘+F) and delete them. If this option is off, *iTunes* will be playing the originals, wherever they are, so be careful what you delete.

Deleting tracks from playlists in *iTunes* doesn't remove them from the library. To permanently remove them you need to go to the main **Music** list at the top-left and delete them from there. This also applies to videos which you can delete from the **Movies** section, and both techniques must also be used on iPods to permanently delete material, unless you have syncing switched on. Podcasts can also become terrible space hogs, so manually delete these from the **Podcasts** section, and also use the **Podcast Settings** menu to make *iTunes* only keep recent episodes. If you want to back up music, podcasts or videos, either drag them to *Finder* and burn to disc, or burn via the **File > Library > Back up To Disc** command in *iTunes*. ▶

QUICK TIP



Keep free space

Your boot drive should have at least 20% of its space free to allow the system to perform essential virtual memory operations. If the drive has less space than this free, you may start to notice serious slowdowns.

Freeing up space

Before spring cleaning it's a good idea to back up your Mac, just in case

QUICK TIP



External backups

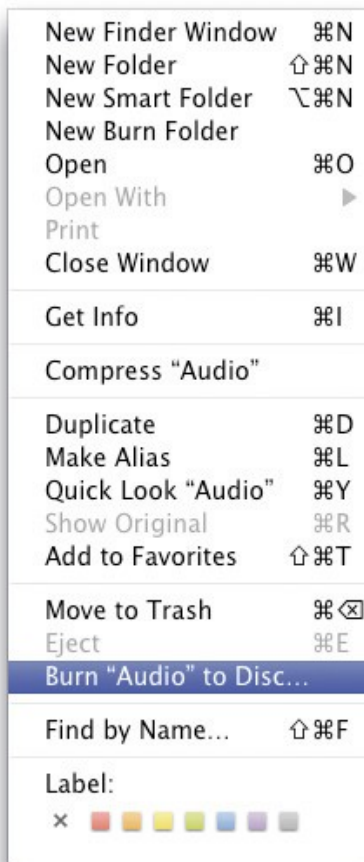
If you're on an OS earlier than 10.5 and don't have *Time Machine*, you can always simply drag and drop folders such as your entire **Home** folder onto an external USB 2.0 or FireWire hard drive periodically to back the whole thing up.

Once you have identified the culprits that are eating up space on your Mac's hard drives, it's time to do something about it. Some data you can delete, as we mentioned in the previous spread. But before deleting you may want to back it up, either for safety reasons or because it's data that you still need but you don't need immediate access to. Old work and email files, old pictures and finished projects are all examples of material that needs to be archived. If you are running OS X 10.5 you will be able to take advantage of *Time Machine*, which performs incremental backups and will let you find items even if they've since been deleted from your main drive. *Time Machine*, however, is more about security of backups than archiving data, so there are some other, better techniques to use to achieve this.

Burn to disc

All Macs come with a disc burner and most from the last few years will be able to burn DVDs as well. Dumping data off a hard drive onto discs is a good way to create a "hard" copy for archive purposes, though it's advisable to get better quality discs and burn them at lower speeds to minimise the chance of any errors. CDs

All recent Macs ship with drives capable of burning CDs and DVDs. *Finder* will burn data to disc with no additional software needed.



typically hold 750MB, some up to 800MB, but for any media files like video or music, DVD is the better option simply because a standard disc holds 4.4GB. When Blu-ray drives are introduced to Macs, which surely must happen soon, you'll be able to get 25GB on a disc or 50GB on a dual-layer disc. Even that pales next to the storage capacities of external hard drives, which are preferable for really large data dumps like copying an entire *iTunes* library prior to pruning it back, for example, just in case you delete something you didn't mean to. Or, for backing up items like large *Photoshop*, music or video projects where accessing the data from an optical disc can be painfully slow.

Cheap external drives

USB 2.0 and FireWire hard drives are now so big and so cheap that they can conceivably be both a *Time Machine* backup drive and a general purpose archiving hard drive at the same time. A quick search reveals several 1TB models for around £100. At ten pence per gigabyte that's incredibly cheap. At these prices you can have a 500GB or 1TB external drive connected to your Mac and just use it to store all non-essential items, keeping your boot drive nice and lean.

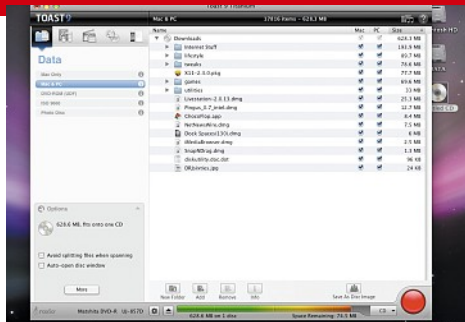
As we have seen, media files, emails and documents can be sorted, backed up

STEP BY STEP How to back up files to a DVD using either Finder or Toast



01

Finder supports native CD and DVD burning so you can perform basic burns without any additional software. In *System Preferences* > *CDs & DVDs*, make sure your Mac is set to open *Finder* when blank discs are inserted. Then when you insert a disc, simply drag files and folders onto it and choose **File > Burn Disc**.



02

If you have *Toast* (£70, www.roxio.co.uk) or *Disco* (\$30 (£17), www.discoapp.com) you get more options. In *System Preferences* you can tell the Mac to open your desired burning app when you insert a disc. Choose a disc type – **Mac & PC** is generally the best – and drop items into the window. Click the **Size** column to sort the list by size.



03

In *Toast's Recorder Setting* menu you can access advanced parameters for your burner. This includes the write speed; if you're in a hurry, choose the fastest speed. If you've had reliability problems with discs not burning properly, choose a slower speed. You can also choose to write a session and continue burning on that disc later. ●



Time Machine in OS X 10.5 is a good backup solution, though no substitute for a thorough spring cleaning.

and then deleted easily, and certainly this will reclaim a lot of space back on your system. Under the hood, however, there's a lot of activity that isn't directly visible to the user, and which can result in additional clutter. Having a huge *iTunes* or *iPhoto* library may slow down their launching times, but clogging at the system level can affect OS X itself negatively in terms of speed and stability.

In order to function properly, the system must write files to the hard drive all the time. These files take various forms – temporary files, logs, caches and more. In the short term, they can help with remembering settings and recent tasks. In the longer term, they can start to occupy more space than you would ideally like. Curiously, OS X doesn't have a built-in tool to clear out these files, and most people aren't comfortable with using *Terminal* to do it. Help is at hand, though, in the form of various third-party utilities, the best of which is *OnyX*. Best not just because of its design, but because it's free and on this issue's disc.

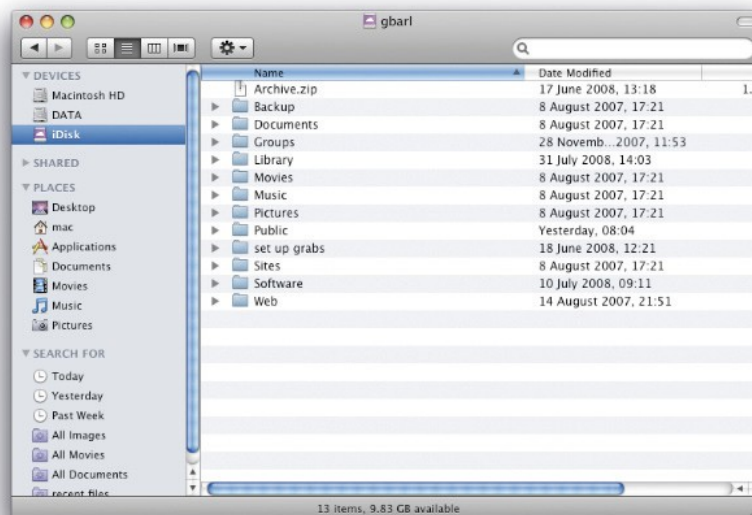
Cleaning with OnyX

If you download the correct version for your flavour of OS X, you can use its **Cleaning** section to dig out all the system stuff that has built up, much of which will be obsolete. The **Internet** tab lets you delete all web browser history, caches and form values. **Caches** helps you to clear out any troublesome cache files that may have become corrupted. **Logs** will remove the many small text files that OS X writes as actions like crashing or software installation occur. Finally **Trash** lets you empty the main Trash, and in the **Misc** tab you'll find the option to delete things like downloaded *Mail* attachments and previous *iTunes* libraries. After these it's recommended to restart, and if you monitor the size of the hard drive you'll

find that there is more free space after restarting. How much exactly will depend on how much clutter was on your system.

There are some other good tips for reclaiming space. If you have had your Mac from new and it came with *iLife* preinstalled, you will almost certainly have the *GarageBand* library and *iDVD* themes occupying a few GBs of space. If you don't want to use the content that comes with these programs, delete them. They can be reinstalled later from the *iLife* DVD if you change your mind. *GarageBand*'s loops can be found in User > Your Username > Library > Audio > Apple Loops and *iDVD*'s themes in User >

"Before deleting, back up; you may have data that you still want but you don't need immediate access to"



ONLINE BACKUP

In this age of fast broadband both at home and at work, online storage is for the first time becoming a viable alternative to physical storage, at least for those with a decent upload speed. There's *MobileMe*, of course, and if you have an account, you get 20GB of combined email and file storage. Other, non-Apple branded alternatives actually offer a very good service as well. For any kind of realistic online storage you're going to want at least a few gigabytes of space at your disposal, which cuts down the field a little since some offer only a

gigabyte or two. *ADrive* (www.adrive.com) offers an incredible 50GB of storage with its basic account and more if you pay for it. It supports OS X and works through a browser, letting you manage and even edit some of your files online. *Xdrive* (www.xdrive.com) offers a free 5GB of online storage and *Humyo* (www.humyo.com) a generous 30GB of online storage on the basic plan. Some services are geared more towards backup such as *iDrive* (www.idrive.com) with a low basic storage quota but a very cheap upgrade to a huge 150GB.



QUICK TIP



Secure Empty Trash

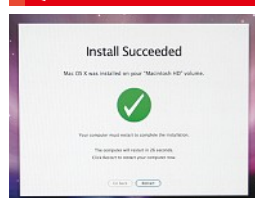
Once data has been erased, it's still theoretically possible to recover it since it hasn't really gone, but rather OS X regards the space it occupied as free space, ready to be written over. To delete data more securely, use **Secure Empty Trash**, though be aware this takes a long time as the space is repeatedly overwritten with zeroes.

If you have a *MobileMe* (or *.Mac*) account, you can back up files and folders there, so they're accessible from any computer.

Slim down OS X

When trimming down OS X, it pays to know where to look and what's safe to delete

QUICK TIP



Reinstall OS X

The most efficient way to slim down a system is to do a full reinstall with minimal options, wiping the previous system. Starting from scratch like this will give you the slickest system possible for your Mac, but remember to back up anything important before you delete the system.

OS X is a great operating system but there are parts of it that can be deleted or trimmed without causing any problems. This is because, by default, a standard OS X install contains some items that you personally will never need. They're there because someone will use them, but you probably won't. The two main examples of this are the additional languages and printer files. Before you rush off to start deleting items from library folders, we must point out that you do so at your own risk. If you're not sure what something is, it's best not to delete it. At the very least you ought to have a *Time Machine* or *Carbon Copy Cloner*-created backup of your system before you start deleting things, unless you are sure you know what you're doing.

Start from scratch

If you're installing or reinstalling a system from an OS X DVD, choose **Custom Install** and then deselect the additional printers and languages, and also the X11 and Developer Tools options. For the leanest system, deselect everything but the Base system. If your Mac came preinstalled, have a look in Macintosh HD > Library > Printers and sort the list of folders by size to see if one is huge, filled with PPD files. The idea in including them is that OS X will be able to recognise many printers. In truth, you only need the one driver for



Before deleting documents, back up your whole system to an external drive using software like *SuperDuper!* or *Carbon Copy Cloner*.

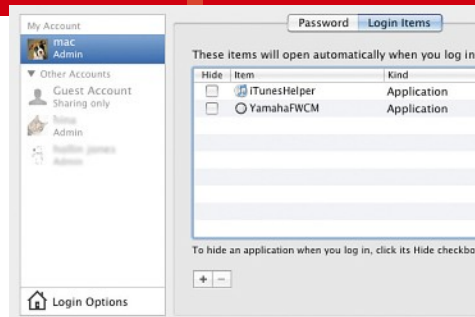
the printer you are running. You can delete these and reinstall the driver from manufacturer's website.

Getting rid of the languages on your system is a little trickier, as they don't just live in one place. There is a free program called *Monolingual* that is able to let you

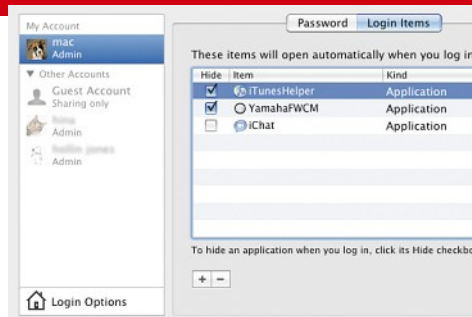
“At the very least you ought to have a full backup of your system before you start deleting things”

strip out all unwanted languages from your system. How often is an English speaker likely to need Arabic, Armenian or Afrikaans on their Mac? It is also able to remove unwanted architectures from your system. In Universal applications, there is code to run the app on different CPUs. On an Intel Mac, for example, you won't need PowerPC G3 code. Getting rid of it can save space, but be warned, this is a dangerous thing to play around with. If you accidentally erase architectures that you do need, at best you will break *Rosetta*, and at worst you will totally break your whole system. Similarly with

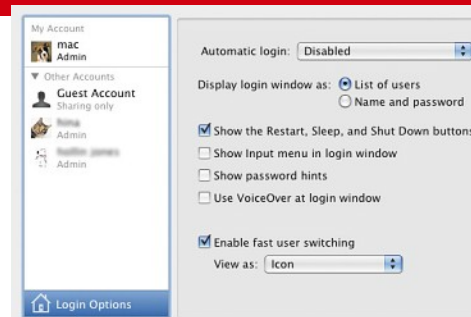
STEP BY STEP How to manage startup items



01 Go to the System Preferences > Accounts section and select your user account. Then, go to the **Login Items** section and you will see a list of the items that are set up to load every time you log in. If you see any you know you don't need you can delete them by selecting them and clicking the - button.

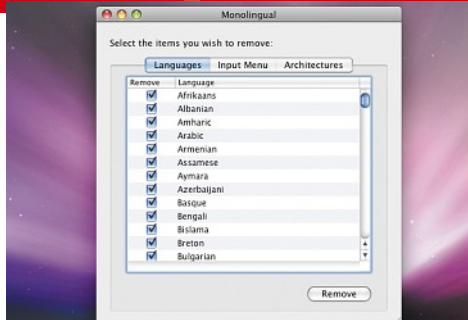


02 On the other hand you may actually want an item to load on login – say *iChat*, for example, if you like it to always be online. In this case, simply either drag an application to the **Login Items** list or use the + button to navigate to it and add it that way.



03 Go to the **Login Options** tab – you will have to authenticate with your password – and if you don't need it, switch Fast User Switching off. User accounts logged in, even in the background, consume system resources. Of course, if you need this feature leave it on since in some circumstances it's very handy. ●

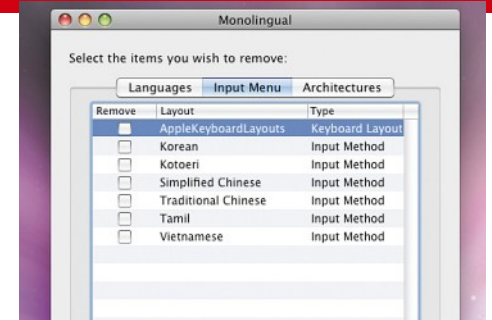
STEP BY STEP How to remove unwanted languages with Monolingual



01 Download and open *Monolingual* from the disc. Be very careful: if you're not confident with the process of stripping languages out of the system, stop now. If you are confident, then make sure the languages ticked are the ones you'll probably never use. Make sure that you *don't* click your native language.



02 Click **Remove** and the program will warn you that the step you're about to take cannot be undone without reinstalling the whole of OS X. Take this warning seriously. If you choose to continue, it will search the many localised files present on the system and inside applications and delete the ones you have specified.



03 The second tab is **Input Menu**, and here you can remove alternatives like Chinese and Korean; this won't reclaim a huge amount of space. **Architectures** can strip code from applications based on the code's CPU framework. This is best avoided; if you make a wrong move you could damage your system, necessitating a total reinstall. ●

the languages, if you accidentally remove English, you're in a lot of trouble.

Uninstalling applications

In terms of applications you can safely delete more or less anything, since the apps themselves don't contribute to the running of the system, with a few minor exceptions like *System Preferences*. You should leave the **Utilities** folder alone as well, since it contains assistants and the *AirPort Utility* to help you. Some programs come with uninstallers, which usually work by you running the installer and, rather than installing, choosing **uninstall**. Unlike on Windows these tend to be pretty comprehensive and remove all components of an app, even the system and library files it may have buried on

installation. For other programs, there's *AppZapper*. Billed as "The uninstaller Apple forgot", it lets you drag an app onto its window to delete all associated support files, caches and preferences as well as the app itself. If you're a fan of installing programs to try them out, it's a great way to ensure that you safely remove them and their associated files when you have finished with them. There are similar programs around – *AppDelete* and *AppCleaner* being two of the best. *AppCleaner* is donationware so need not cost you anything. It also has a "protect" function to make specific apps immune from deletion.

As noted before, you can safely delete the *GarageBand* **Apple Loops** folder and *iDVD* themes from a standard OS X install

if you don't need them. Deleting duplicate or unwanted tracks from *iTunes* is also a great space saver and clearing out obsolete photos from *iPhoto* will help with the clutter. The **Find** function in OS X can be helpful here, as it lets you search using multiple criteria. So, for example, you could search for all items over 50MB in size that were last opened over one year ago, or something similar. This would give you a list of items matching those criteria, which may well reveal large files or folders that you had forgotten about or lost. At that point you could decide to back them up or delete them altogether.

Slim the startup items

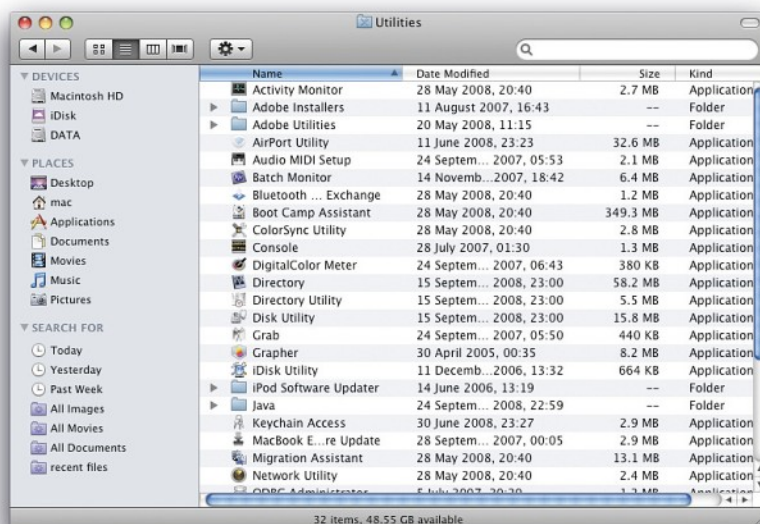
Startup items are another area where you can trim some fat. Some programs on installation place a startup item into your account so that a program or a helper starts up on login. The worst culprits are printers and scanners, which tend to put clumsy and slow assistant programs in to load automatically, which slow down your login and without which the peripheral will almost always work perfectly. Go to **System Preferences** > **Accounts** > **Login Items** and delete any errant ones. You're unlikely to break anything by doing this. Similarly, some installers add preference panes to *System Preferences*, generally to be found in the **Other** section. If these are no longer needed, right-click or [Ctrl]-click on them and choose **Remove...**, and they will be sent to the Trash. Similarly when you install widgets it can be easy to let them build up and forget the ones you never use. To clear them out, open *Widget Manager* and you'll see a red symbol next to each one that can be deleted. Clicking this will send it to the Trash. ►

QUICK TIP



External OS

It's possible to install a system on an external FireWire or USB 2.0 drive, depending on your model of Mac. Try this if you experience problems with your boot drive. It should also reveal any slowdowns on your boot drive as the new system will be fresh.



When trimming down your **Applications** folder, leave the **Utilities** folder alone since many programs in it are important.

Tweak your system

After spring cleaning, there are steps you can take for optimum performance

QUICK TIP



Trim Spotlight searches

If you have a folder into which you drop lots of temporary items, consider excluding it from Spotlight's search in System Preferences > Spotlight. Otherwise the system may slow down as OS X tries to index all the contents, only for you to delete the files shortly afterwards.

After clearing out the clutter, there are more steps that you can take to squeeze the absolute maximum performance out of your Mac. These start with the hardware, since all the software tweaks in the world are of limited use if you don't power up the hardware as well. Many Macs still ship with a rather paltry 1GB of RAM, which isn't much in this day and age. A cheaper way to upgrade the memory, rather than getting it from Apple, is to use a third party like crucial.com/uk and fit it yourself, which is generally very easy – instructions can be found on Apple's site.

More RAM, faster Mac

Macs do ship with nice fast processors – anything higher than a G5 and certainly any dual processor or dual core Mac should be nice and snappy after a spring clean, but this will be negated if the system is thrashing the hard drive trying to compensate for minimal RAM by using virtual memory. Just as an example, adding an extra gigabyte of RAM to a MacBook dual core 2GHz for a total of 2GB makes a massive difference. *Finder* is snappier and you see a lot less of the spinning beach ball. Go beyond about 2GB and the performance gains you see are more in terms of being able to run more apps at once and run more intensive apps like video, audio or games



Choose **About This Mac** from the menu for a quick overview of your CPU and installed RAM levels.

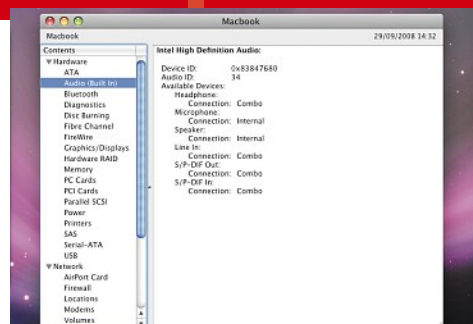
more smoothly. Installing a faster hard drive as the boot drive on a tower Mac will also yield performance gains, especially if you go up to a 10,000 speed drive. On a newer laptop, installing a 7,200RPM drive will also make things faster, though older Mac portables don't have user-replaceable hard drives. On towers like G4s and G5s you may also see a benefit to installing a faster graphics card, though only really if you use graphics-heavy software like compositing or video, or you play a lot of games.

Keeping media files on secondary hard drives is another great tip for speeding up your Mac. If you're working with *iMovie*, *GarageBand*, *iDVD*, *Final Cut*, *Logic* or another program that requires the streaming of large media files, storing and working with them off another drive will greatly reduce the strain on your boot drive as it tries to run the system and the main application. Partitioning a drive won't help a great deal with this; though it appears as two volumes, it's still a single physical drive, so the drive head can only be in one place at once. With two drives, you have twice the read capacity. If you have a non-expandable Mac like a portable, iMac, Mac mini or eMac, use an external drive to store media files. It's worth knowing that although theoretically faster, USB 2.0 isn't favoured as much by professionals as FireWire due to the speed at which it requests data. So although a USB 2.0 drive will be cheaper, a FireWire one offers superior performance.

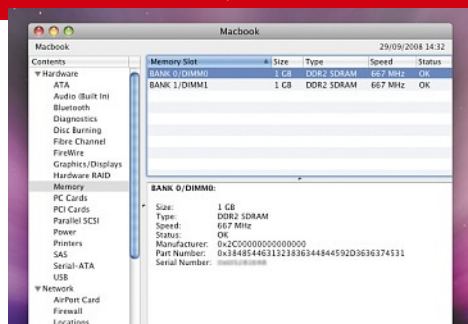
Manage libraries

With the hardware sorted, there are steps you can take to tweak OS X and its programs for better performance. *iPhoto* and *iTunes* both rely on a library system to manage your image and music libraries. If you hold down the key when you boot either program, you will

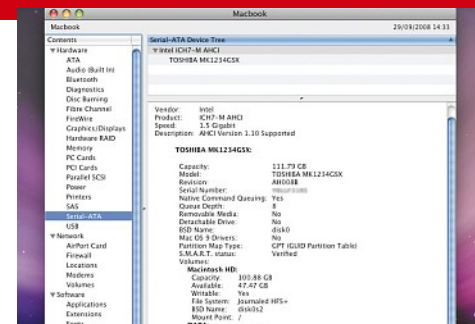
STEP BY STEP How to view hardware information about your Mac



01 In order to understand the areas in which your Mac could be expanded or powered up, you need to know what its current hardware configuration is like. Go to the menu and choose **About This Mac**, which shows you simple CPU and RAM details. Then click on the **More Info** button to open *System Profiler*.

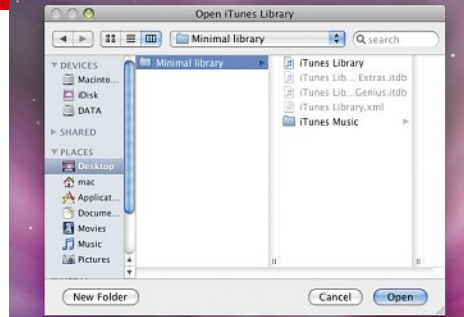


02 Click on the **Memory** section to see the size, location and status of currently installed RAM chips. Any empty slots mean you are free to add more RAM. You may be able to replace the current RAM with sticks of higher capacity – this depends on your model. Maximum RAM capacities can be found using *MacTracker*, on the disc.



03 If you look at the **SATA** section, or **ATA** if your Mac is older, you can see the capacity of the existing hard drive. On a tower Mac there will be space for more than one internal drive, and Mac Pros support up to four internal drives. Information about external drives connected to your Mac will be found in the **USB** and **FireWire** tabs. ●

STEP BY STEP How to manage multiple libraries in iPhoto and iTunes



01 In *iTunes* and *iPhoto*, you can hold down the **⌘** key while starting the program to bring up the library options. Large libraries can mean these apps are slow to start up, so you may want to maintain several libraries for different purposes. To create a fresh one, select **Create** and choose a location.

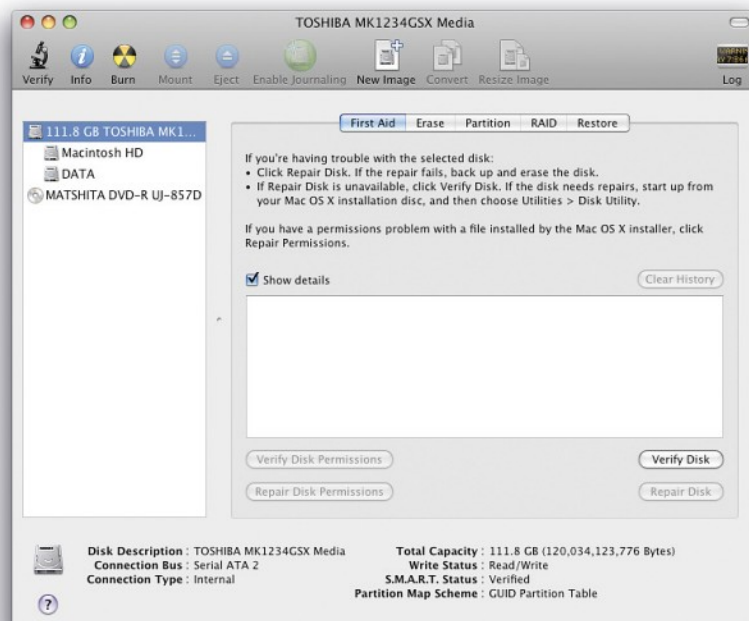
02 Now you can populate the library for a specific purpose – say, store it on an external drive so you can carry it around and use it on any Mac. To load it just use the **⌘** key trick and navigate to the folder you specified. A fully self-contained **iTunes** folder will be created inside it.

03 The same applies with *iPhoto* – except that an *iPhoto* library displays as a single file rather than a folder. The idea here could be to maintain different libraries for different projects or clients. And, of course, since each one is smaller, they will start up and load much more quickly. ●

see an options window that lets you create a new library or choose from among any existing ones. The idea is that if your old library becomes cluttered or bloated, you may want to offload it onto an external drive and start a fresh one. You could still access the old library using this method, but work mainly in the newer, leaner one. It's also a handy trick for using portable libraries on USB sticks or external drives without having to keep copying them to the Mac before you can work on material.

Keep it organised

Organising things sensibly on your Mac may not physically speed up the computer but it will certainly speed up your workflow, which is almost as good. Place frequently used applications in the Dock for instant access. Put folders or aliases to folders in the Dock and group them together – say, for example, a folder for word processing apps, one for internet stuff, one for games and so on. In OS X 10.5 you can see these displayed as “stacks” or a grid, or in a list view like in 10.4. Keep your Desktop clear and instead, organise folders by category or date. Use Smart Folders to keep track of items using their metadata – all documents opened this week, or all images created this month, for example. Don't leave applications open after you have finished using them as they will consume system resources. Once a program has booted, it will boot much quicker the second time as it will be partially cached. Logging out if you're leaving your Mac for a short time is much better than shutting down, as logging back in will take just a few seconds whereas starting up and logging in from



A partitioned hard drive is one way of keeping data separate but won't provide performance as good as using two separate drives.

scratch will take considerably longer as the Mac has to initialise and load all its system components again.

It almost goes without saying, but fancy extras like using an animated screensaver as a Desktop background is a huge drain, especially on the CPUs of older Macs. Similarly, having extra users logged in the background through Fast

“Don't leave programs open after you have finished using them as they will consume system resources”

User Switching and even using Dock magnification can slow down struggling older machines. If you forego these luxuries, your old Mac screen may look a little dull but it will perform to its best abilities. It's also worth using a *Flash* blocker add-on for *Safari*, or even *Firefox* or *Camino*, as *Flash* content in websites tends to reduce old Macs to a crawl. In fact, if your Mac is elderly it's worth sticking with an older version of OS X as the upgrade to 10.5 – or even in some cases 10.4 – may bring crippling load for the sake of some features you could live without. Owners of newer Macs can take advantage of the leap in performance thanks to the Intel CPUs. ●

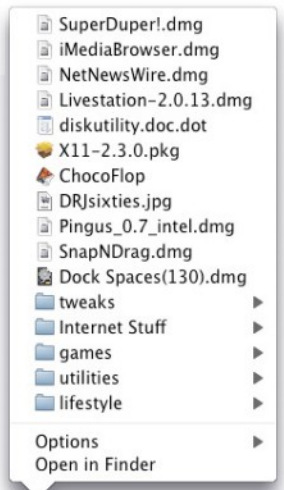
QUICK TIP



Change CPU power

Some G4- and G5-based Macs had a feature called “processor bus slewing”, whereby you could manually increase or reduce the power of the CPU to generate less heat or preserve battery life. This is found in System Preferences > Energy Saver.

Keep your documents organised by putting items into folders and subfolders in the Dock for quick access.



Available from :



www.apple.com/ukstore



www.atcomputers.co.uk



www.play.com



www.ghc.co.uk

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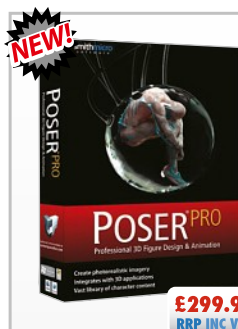
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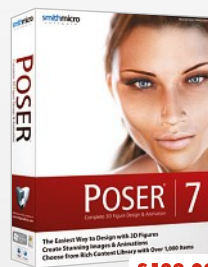


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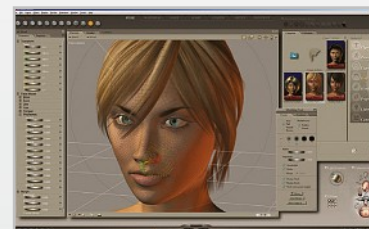


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Apple's *iLife* suite is packed full of handy features and useful customisation options, but there's no doubt that this richness comes at a price; it can get complicated. *MacFormat* is here to help, however, with its regular tutorial section. In this issue, we show you

the different options you have when you want to export your photos from *iPhoto* – tech guru Trevor Middleton also shows you how to manage your original photos – and take you through the slightly trickier process of customising your menus in *iDVD*.

Perhaps best of all, though, we walk you through the basics of creating a website with *iWeb*. It may not have the richness of *Dreamweaver* (see our review on p86) or the power of *RapidWeaver*, but it's a cracking way to get a beautiful site online with very little fuss. We don't just cover apps from the *iLife* suite, though; explore, and discover what else we have for you!



Master *iPhoto* exporting p40



Get started in *iWeb* '08 p44



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How to...

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

Next issue

Next issue, we have even more fantastic *iLife* and *iWork* tutorials for you in among all our other masterclasses. We give you some killer *iMovie* '08 editing tips, and show you how to master effects in *Keynote*.

It's not just about Apple's 'iApps', though; we also turn the spotlight on *Mail*, and show you the add-on apps that can boost its features.



Turbocharge *Apple Mail*



Master effects in *Keynote*

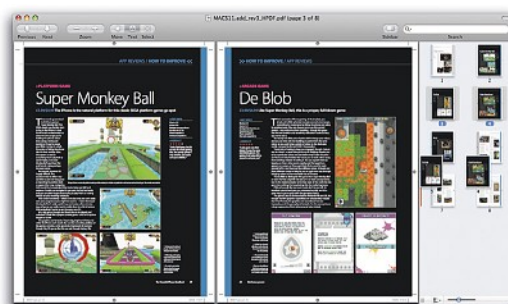


Editing tips for *iMovie* '08

Did you know?

You can rearrange pages in a multipage PDF using *Preview*

Preview – the image and PDF viewing app that comes with OS X – got some handy new features in Leopard. One of the least well-known is the ability to do basic manipulation of PDFs. Open a PDF document and you can drag pages around to rearrange them, or just tap the [Backspace] key to delete individual pages entirely. You can even drag pages in from another PDF to create an all-in-one document. ●



An ordinary photograph of a building or even a person can be totally transformed with some Pop Art magic.



Turn photos into Pop Art

Transform your ordinary holiday snaps into a work of art that looks far more interesting

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 (£58, www.adobe.com/uk)
- 20 minutes of your time
- A starting image



Picture this scene: you've just come back off your holiday where you've been snapping away with that brand new digital SLR you bought yourself beforehand. Most of your shots are nicely framed, perfectly exposed and sharp... but there's still something wrong. Now, whether it's the sheer quantity of shots that we tend to produce these days, or the fact that so many of your photos look like postcards, somehow they just don't get your creative juices flowing. What's the answer? Leave them in *iPhoto* and maybe look at them again in a few years' time?

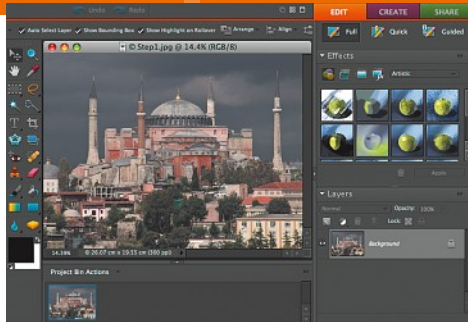
Well, don't worry. It's hard to take a shot that's going to blow people's socks

"With help from Pop Art, we can put a new twist on a dull shot and produce a rather nice keepsake"

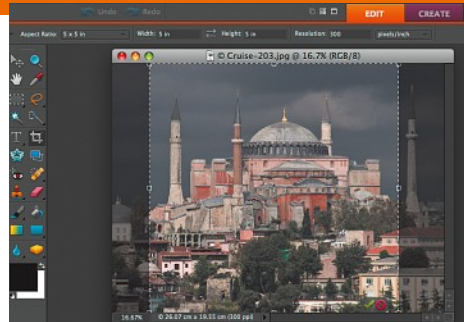
off. Yes, there's skill involved, but timing and the weather can play a huge role in how your images turn out. And remember, we're all becoming far more graphically literate, and that means that a photograph really has to be really outstanding or very different to stand out. So don't beat yourself up. Think positive instead.

Here we've taken a photo of the Hagia Sofia from a recent trip to Istanbul. On its own it's an average photo with a dramatic background, but it really doesn't say anything. Is there something we could do to make it different and worth framing? With a bit of inspiration from the Pop Art movement, we can put a new twist on a dull shot and produce a rather nice keepsake. It's not difficult to do and you can apply it to many different subjects. You can use it for beautiful landscapes and portraits of loved ones, like the famous Pop Art masterpiece of Marilyn Monroe.

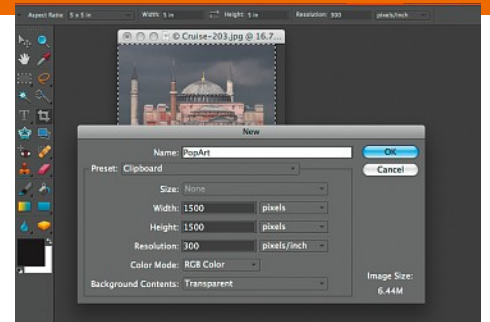
So, let's whip up our own Warhol. **Mark Sparrow**

STEP BY STEP Inject some colour into a dull shot

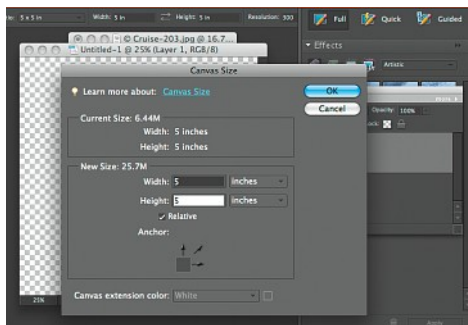
01 So here's our starting shot. The sky is great but there's not much of a foreground and it all looks a bit flat. The subject is recognisable and an interesting shape, so let's ring the changes by combining four copies of the shot on one page but change the colour of each one to create a Pop Art-style image.



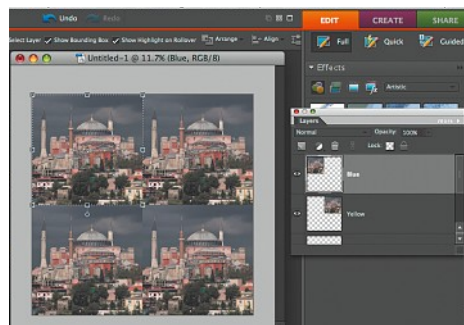
02 First, let's crop the image into a square. Select the **Crop** tool and set the **Width** and the **Height** to 5 inches and the **Resolution** to 300dpi as you'll be printing out your finished masterpiece. Once the image has been cropped you'll need to create a new document and extend the canvas to take four of these images.



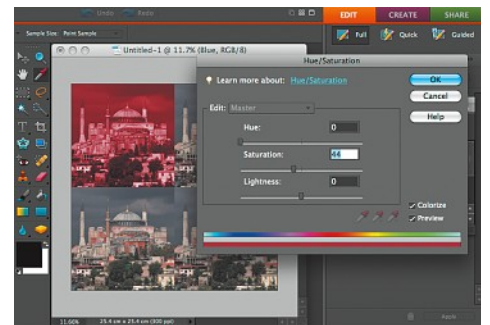
03 To create your new master document, go to **Select > Select All**. Now press **⌘+[C]** to copy the cropped image. Now go to **File > New > Blank File**. You need to choose the **Transparent** option for background. Click on **OK** and then type **⌘+[V]** to paste the original square image into the new file.



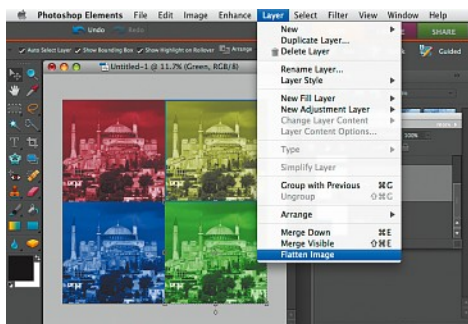
04 You now need to extend the canvas. Go to **Image > Resize > Canvas Size** (**⌘+⌘+[C]**). Make sure you select the lower-left quadrant in the **Anchor** setting. Now set the unit measurement to **Inches** and type 5 into each box, but make sure the **Relative** box is ticked. This will produce a larger canvas with a transparent background.



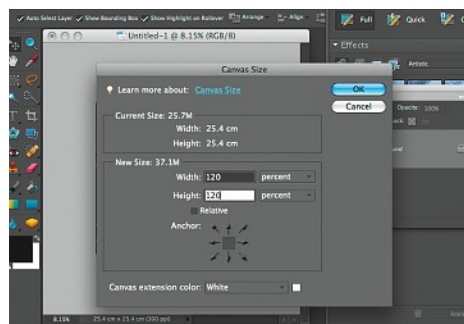
05 You can now duplicate the background layer three times so that you have four square images. Select each layer at a time and reposition the images so that they're arranged into a pattern of four squares. You can rename each layer **Yellow**, **Red**, **Green** and **Blue** so you know where you want each different colour to be.



06 To colour up each of the images with a single colour, go to **Enhance > Adjust Color > Hue/Saturation** (**⌘+[U]**). When the dialog box opens, make sure the **Colorize** checkbox is ticked. Now use the **Hue** and **Saturation** sliders until you have the colour you want. You should be able to get a good red, green, blue and yellow.



07 Once you've managed to colour each layer appropriately with the **Hue/Saturation** command, all you need to do is flatten all four of the coloured layers into one so that you can add a small white border before printing out and framing the image. To flatten the layers, go to the **Layers** menu and click on **Flatten Image**.



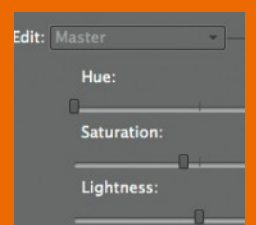
08 Okay, we're nearly there. To add a white border, go to **Image > Resize > Canvas Size** (**⌘+⌘+[C]**). Make sure the units are set to **Percent** and type 120 in each box. Be sure to click the centre square in the **Anchor** setting and make sure that **Canvas extension colour** is set to **White**. Click **OK**, and that's it. Pop goes the Warhol. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

The **Crop** tool in *Photoshop Elements 6* is great. You can type in any dimensions and specify your final resolution. Simply make your selection and click on the green tick when you're done.

EXPERT TIP

The **Hue/Saturation** command is absolutely fantastic for producing a quick duotone effect without any fuss. You can colour images with almost any hue. Experiment with the sliders and have fun!



Save images out of iPhoto

iPhoto and Preview work well together and make changing image formats easy

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor
- Apple iPhoto 5, 6, 7 or 8 (v8, part of iLife '08, £55, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- Some images to export



When you want to get your images out of iPhoto to save to a flash drive, or upload to your Facebook gallery, it's easy. You just drag them onto your Desktop. Tutorial over? Not quite. While simply dropping them on your Desktop works, you can get much more control over the type of file that results by using iPhoto's built-in export options.

Why might you need to do this? Well, what if you need to change the file format? You might like to change that nice fat TIFF into a skinny little JPEG to put up on the web, or maybe your image is a JPEG that you'd like to preserve the quality of and want to save as a lossless PNG or TIFF file. Or you may need to export an image in a not-so-common format like a GIF, a Photoshop file, or even a Microsoft BMP file. You

can do all these and more with iPhoto's export options combined with the Preview application, which is already built into your Mac.

iPhoto can export images in JPEG, PNG or TIFF file formats, while Preview gives you options not yet mentioned, including: JPEG-2000, OpenEXR, PDF, PICT, SGI and TGA. We'll show you how to combine the two applications together in this tutorial.

Don't forget, iPhoto also allows for custom resizing when you export, should you want to make your image smaller than the original. Follow the step-by-step guide here to become a master of iPhoto's export options. **Kevin J Wolfe**



TOP FEATURES | Easy exporting in iPhoto

Export

To export a photo, highlight it and call up the Export option from the File menu.

Batch

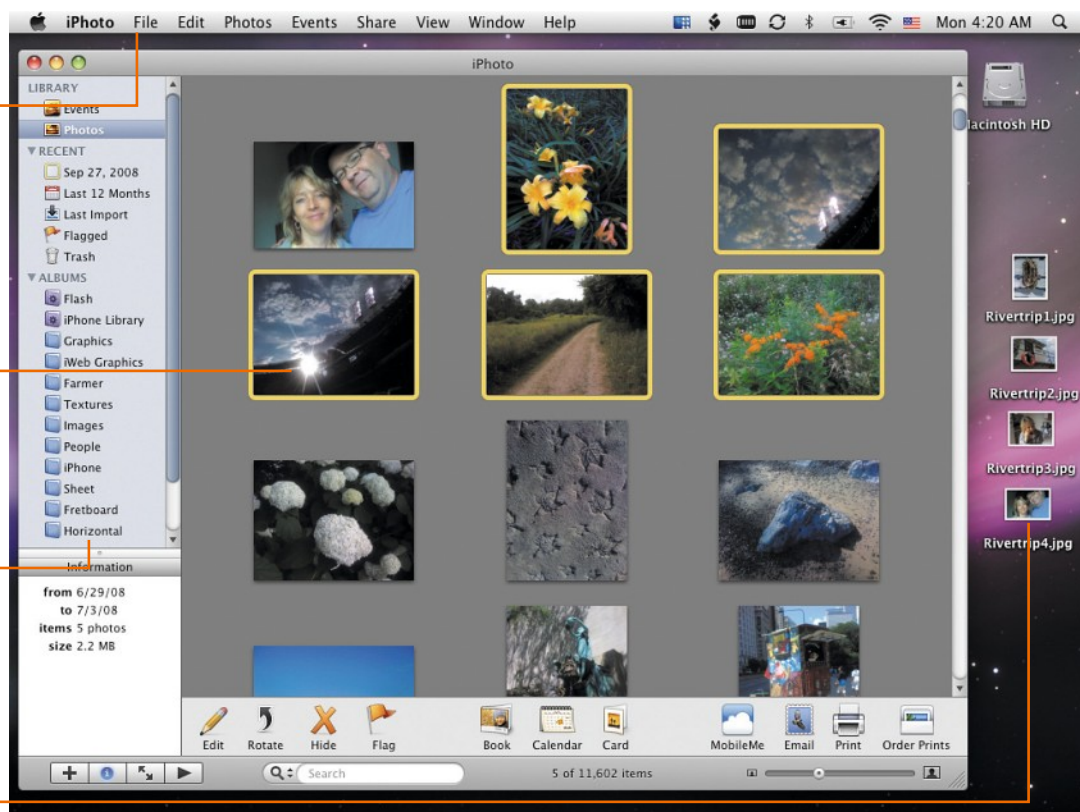
You can batch export a folder or sequence of images by highlighting them before calling up the Export option as before.

By the Album

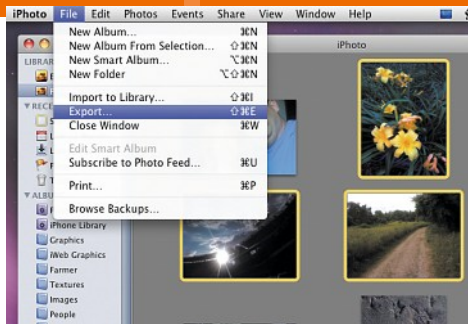
You can batch export an album of images, by opening the album and pressing ⌘+[A] to highlight them all. Then export as before.

Save

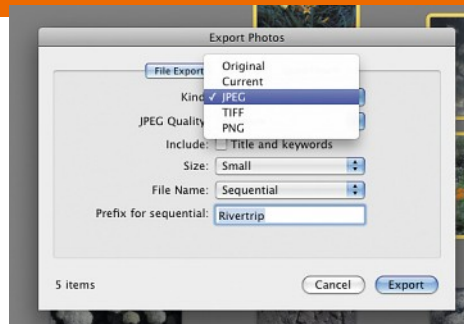
All of your exported images can be saved to your Desktop, so that they're easier to locate later on.



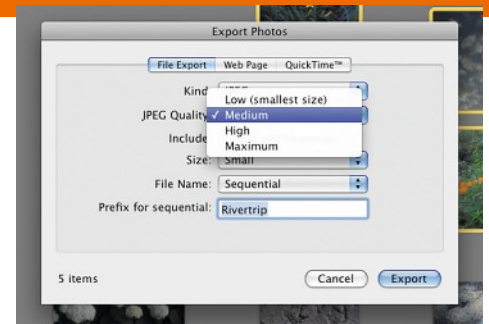
STEP BY STEP Exporting images from iPhoto



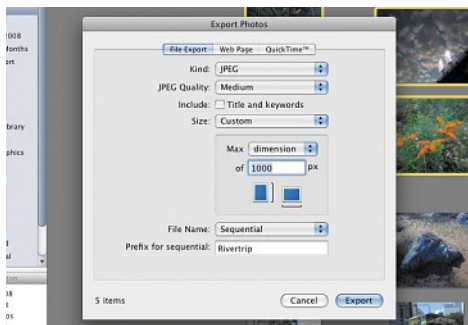
01 Open *iPhoto* and find your image or images. If you're exporting a single image, click on it to highlight it. If you're exporting a series, click on the first image and ⇧ -click on the last image to highlight them. If you want to export an album, open it and press $\text{⌘}+\text{A}$ to highlight all. Then click on the **File** menu and choose **Export**.



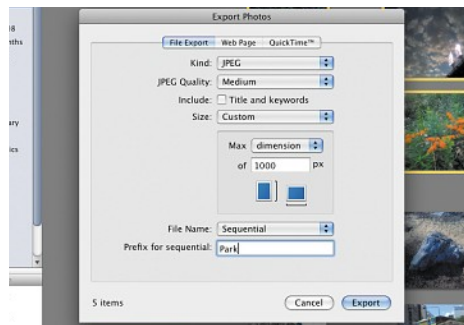
02 Click on the **File Export** tab and choose the image format you want to export in from the **Kind** list. Even if exporting to the same format, choose the image format type from the list instead of **Original** or **Current**. The **Original** and **Current** choices won't give you some of the exporting options that may be available.



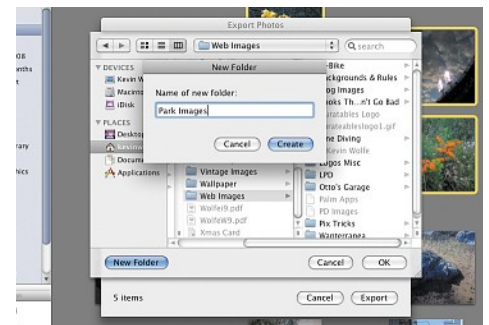
03 If exporting to JPEG you can choose the quality or compression ratio. PNG and TIFF, which are lossless formats, don't allow you to change quality. If exporting for printing, you'll want **Maximum** quality; if you're posting them to the web, you'll want **Medium** or **Small** to save space. JPEG also allows you to add a title and keywords.



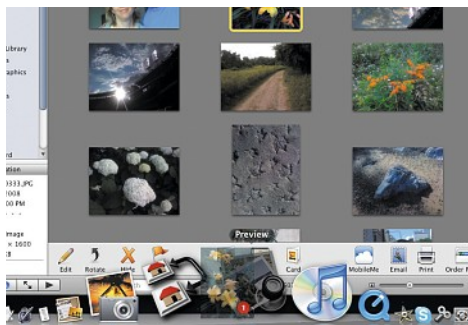
04 Choose the resolution from the **Size** list. All choices except **Full Size** will shrink the number of pixels. This reduces both the physical size and the quality of your image. The **Custom Size** allows you to reduce to whatever pixel dimensions you'd like. Enter the maximum number of pixels you'd like for height, width or dimensions.



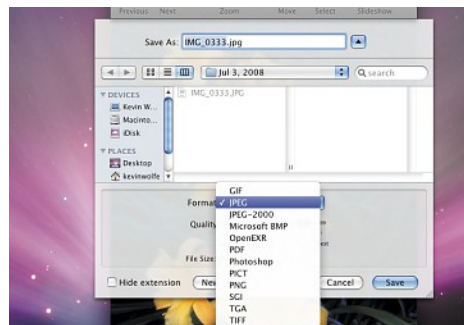
05 For **File Name** you can choose the current filename, the title that you've given the image in *iPhoto*, a named sequential order, or an album name. The **Sequential** and **Use Album** choices are mostly useful when batch processing images. Photos will give them the album name or title of our choice followed by a number in sequence.



06 Choose a location where you'd like to export the image or images. When batch exporting, it's best to create a new folder for the images to easily keep them together or move them around. Click on the **New Folder** button and name it something similar or the same as the images. Click on the **OK** button to export.



07 Open up your *Preview* application; it will either be in your Dock or in your **Applications** folder. Drag the photo directly from *iPhoto* to the *Preview* icon that's open in your Dock. If you drag an unedited RAW file from *iPhoto* it will be converted into a JPEG.



08 It's easier to process images in *Preview* one at a time. Click on the **File** menu and choose **Save As**. JPEG will allow you 10 levels of compression; JPEG-2000 allows for a lossless save; PDF gives you the options of quartz filters and encryption; TIFF allows for some lossless compression options. Choose your location and click **Save**.

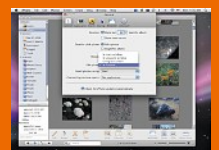
TOOL SCHOOL



Before exporting, try tweaking your images with the **Enhance** button or the **Adjust** window, where you can brighten up a dull-looking image.

EXPERT TIP

You can set up *Preview* as *iPhoto*'s external editor for easier use. Go to **Preferences > General**. Then, from the **Edit Photo** in option, choose *Preview* from the list.



Customise menus in iDVD

iDVD's templates aren't set in stone; you have the ability to alter them to suit your project's needs

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple iDVD 7.0.2 (part of iLife '08, £55, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- Footage ready to be used from iMovie, iPhoto or inside your Movies folder
- 30 minutes of your time



Even though iLife '08 appears to focus on web distribution to share your digital memories, creating a DVD is still a very popular method to enable friends and family to enjoy your homemade films, especially if they do not have access to broadband internet. Despite what some people may think, there are still a lot of people out there who do not have, or cannot get, high-speed internet connections. There is definitely plenty of life in iDVD yet, and the latest version introduced a few more welcome features to this deceptively powerful application.

"Beneath the default menus lie powerful tools which will turn a template into something unique"

At its most basic, iDVD allows you to make a DVD in seconds by choosing a theme, dragging your films and slideshow onto it and clicking on the **Burn** button. It's that simple! But although this is an immense timesaver, it doesn't provide an outlet for your creativity if you find yourself with a few minutes to spare and a desire to try something different.

Thankfully, beneath the default menus lie powerful customising tools which will



Apple's iDVD application is great at helping you make professional DVDs from your homemade movies, with its templates and themes.

help you turn an Apple-designed template into something more unique to suit most people's needs.

You cannot alter themes themselves but you can modify the look of your links, changing fonts, colour or even turning them in thumbnail images and allow that thumbnail to display a small part of the movie it links to. Better still, you can choose between 13 different

transitions, which are small animated film sequences that are triggered once a link has been activated.

This tutorial will introduce you to the various options available to you in order to make a theme a little more unique. We'll also show you how to save your new look into a **Favourite** which you can use again and again.

Steve Paris

STEP BY STEP Customise DVD menus and save your own themes



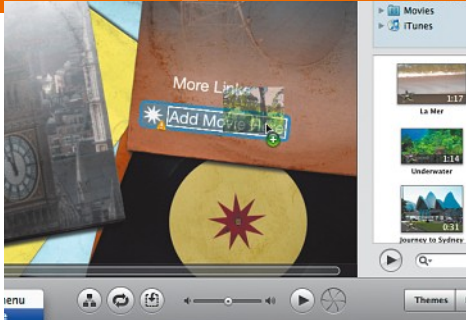
01 Launch iDVD and create a new project. Select a theme of your choice from the panel on the right. If you wish to see all options in one go, click on the pull-down menu, top-right of the window, and choose **All**. When ready, add a new submenu by using the + button, bottom-left of the interface.



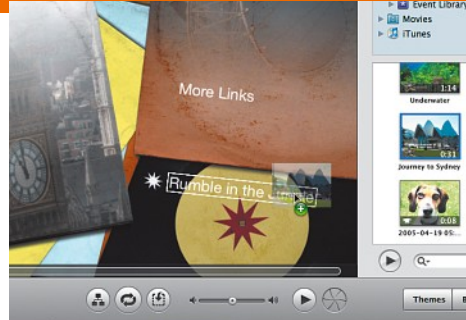
02 Click on the new link to rename it. As you do so, a number of options will appear giving you basic control over the font like changing its type and size. In order to see more choices, like the ability to add a shadow for instance, click on the **i** button to reveal the **Inspector** (to the right of the + button).



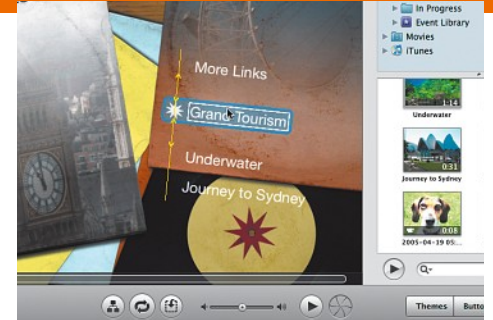
03 To add a movie link to your current menu, click on the **Media** button and select the **Movies** tab. You can drag a film from there straight onto your menu. However, if your theme has many drop zones, you may inadvertently drag it onto one. If that happens, your movie is placed inside that drop zone and no submenu is created.

STEP BY STEP Customise DVD menus and save your own themes. . . continued


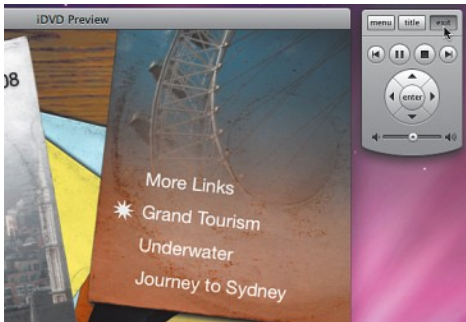
04 There is a way to avoid this problem: click on the + button again and this time choose **Add Movie** from the list. Select the newly-created link and drag it to a convenient place on the menu away from the drop zones. Then, drag your film from the **Media** section onto that link, which will automatically take on your movie's name.



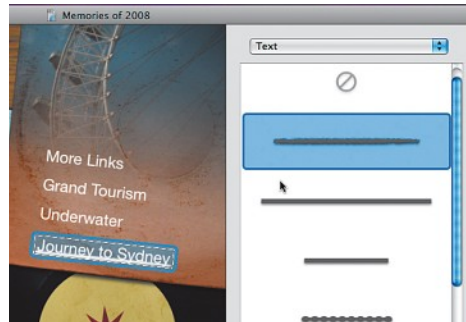
05 Whether you dragged a movie straight onto the menu as described in step 3 or dropped it onto a specially created button, that link isn't set: you can drag a different movie onto it and *iDVD* will then link to it instead and will also automatically rename the button to bear the name of the new movie.



06 Moving buttons along is a simple matter of clicking and dragging. As you do, little yellow dynamic guides appear to help you align them with each other. (They don't help you align them with any other part of the menu like drop zones or menu titles). You can select more than one at a time by ⌘-clicking those you wish to move.



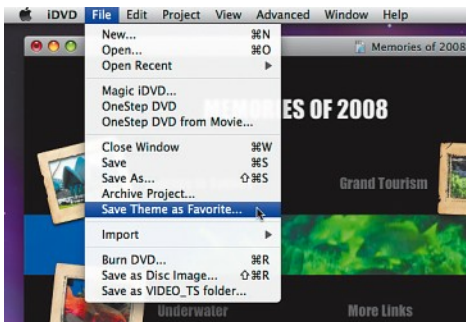
07 Click on the **Play** button located at the bottom of the interface to get a preview of what your DVD menu will look like. Text menus can be quite plain, but there's a way to spice them up and personalise a theme. Click on the **Exit** button located top-right on the application's remote control.



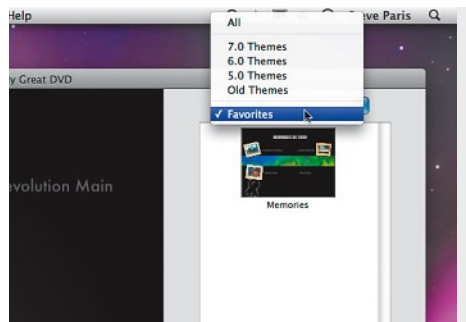
08 Click on a link and select the **Buttons** section. The pull-down menu at the top is set to **Text**. Choose one of the thick lines displayed and it will be shown when a link is highlighted (it will replace the theme's default highlight). Select the pull-down menu to have access to even more options, including the ability to display thumbnails.



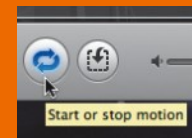
09 If it isn't already displayed, reveal the inspector (⌘+I). Untick the **Still Image** box to turn the thumbnail into a smaller version of the movie and use the slider above to choose where to start playback. The **Size** slider changes the thumbnail's dimension. You can also choose which transition to use from the **Transition** pull-down.



10 It is possible to save your theme in order to preserve your customisation and be able to use it in other menus or even other projects. Once you are happy with it, go to **File > Save Theme as Favourite**. You have the option of making your creation available to other accounts on your Mac or limit it to your own.



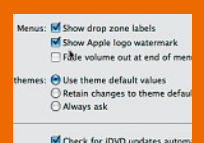
11 To access your new theme, select the **Theme** button, at the bottom-right, and select **Favourites** from the pull-down menu. If you used various button styles for your links, *iDVD* will remember them and add the first style to the first link, the second to the second link, etc. Even the position of the buttons on the screen is preserved. ●

TOOL SCHOOL


By default, the theme's animation is switched on while you are designing your menu. If this is distracting, you can switch it off.

EXPERT TIP

Each default menu bears an Apple logo. Removing it is easy: go to **Preferences** (⌘+[)], choose the **General** tab and then make sure the **Show Apple logo watermark** option is not ticked.



Build a website with iWeb

Blogs, multimedia and polished pages are easy, even for your first iWeb site

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor
- OS X Tiger or Leopard
- Apple iWeb '08 (ES5, part of iLife '08, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- Some images



Despite the web being a part of our daily lives, building a website still has a steep learning curve. *iWeb* eliminates that with sharp-looking themes, page templates, a WYSIWYG editor and seamless integration with MobileMe. In addition to basic pages, there are media-rich blogs, photo albums, slideshows and podcasts. You don't need to know a thing about HTML to create a great looking site.

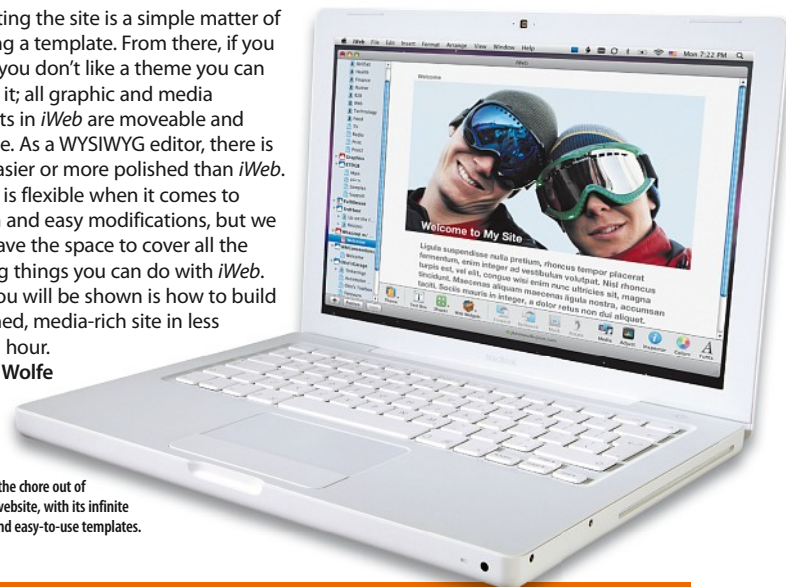
You will need web space to host your site; the easiest way to do this is with a MobileMe account. In addition to seamless uploading and operation, MobileMe offers unique features for *iWeb* that other servers don't, like password protection, comments, a blog search, a hit counter and enhanced slideshows. But most *iWeb* features function fine, whatever web space you use.

Creating the site is a simple matter of choosing a template. From there, if you decide you don't like a theme you can change it; all graphic and media elements in *iWeb* are moveable and resizable. As a WYSIWYG editor, there is none easier or more polished than *iWeb*.

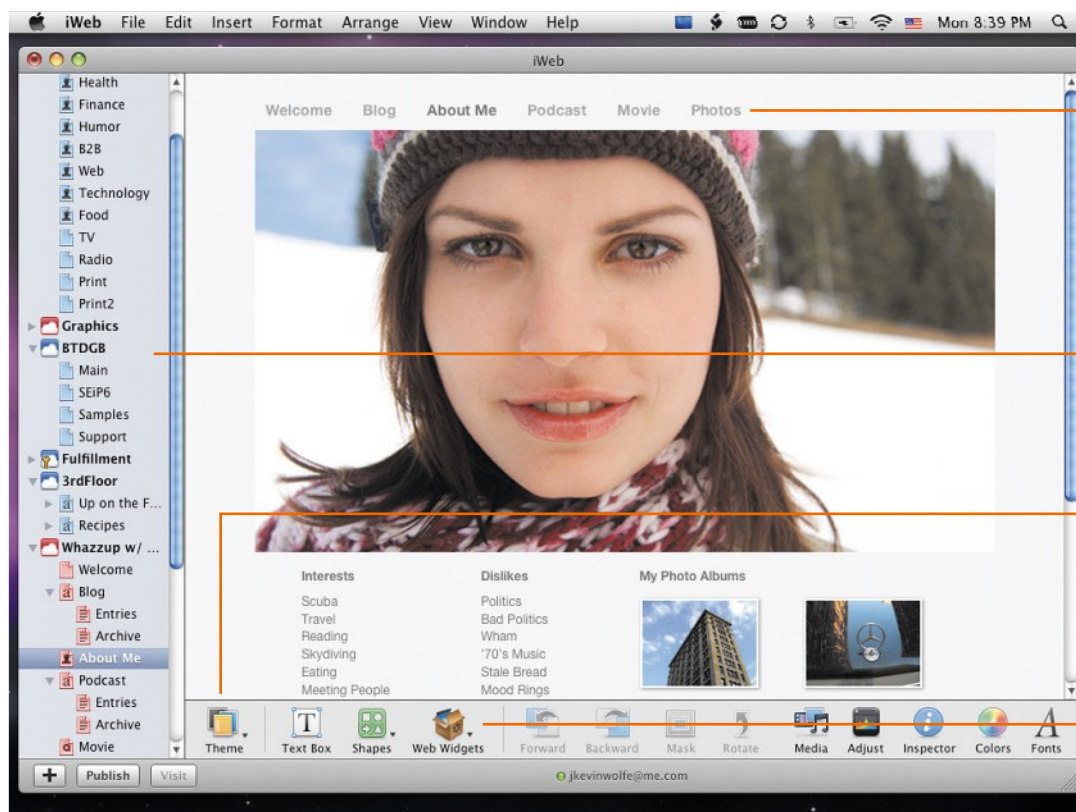
iWeb is flexible when it comes to smooth and easy modifications, but we don't have the space to cover all the amazing things you can do with *iWeb*. What you will be shown is how to build a polished, media-rich site in less than an hour.

Kevin J Wolfe

iWeb takes the chore out of building a website, with its infinite flexibility and easy-to-use templates.



TOP FEATURES | Easy web building



Navbar

iWeb automatically builds a navigation bar for your site across the top of each page, this is very handy and saves you a hard job!

Index

You can quickly get to any page on any site by clicking on the Index on the left and finding your way from there.

Themes

You can change the visual theme of your site at any time if you feel it needs a new look. Just hit the Themes button at the bottom.

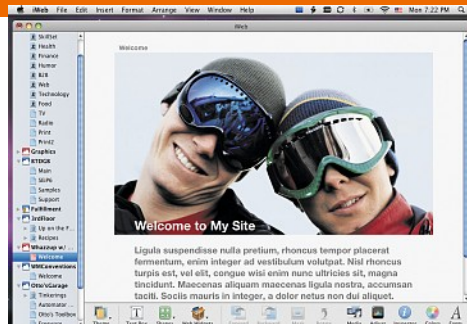
Objects

Text boxes, graphic shapes and event widgets like Google maps can be added with the click of a button. Go to Web Widgets and add away.

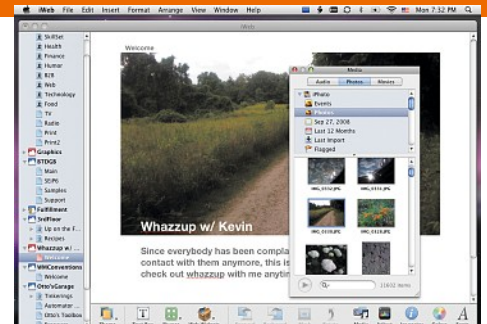
STEP BY STEP Using Apple's iWeb to create an easy website



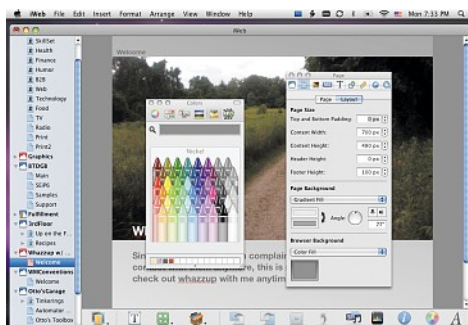
01 Click on the **iWeb** icon on your Dock. If it's not in your Dock you can click on the **Applications** folder in your Dock or in **Finder** and choose **iWeb** there. Click on the **File** menu and choose **New Site**. Choose a template you like from the list on the left. Thumbnails of the theme's templates will display on the right.



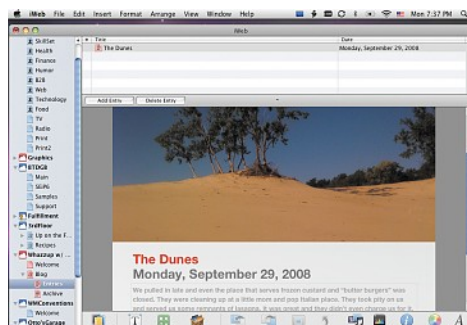
02 You can change the theme at any time. Click on a template on the right for the page format you'd like for your start page. It doesn't have to be a **Welcome** or **About Me** page. A blog or podcast page may better suit your needs. Click on the **Choose** button. Double-click on the red **Site** in the index to name your site.



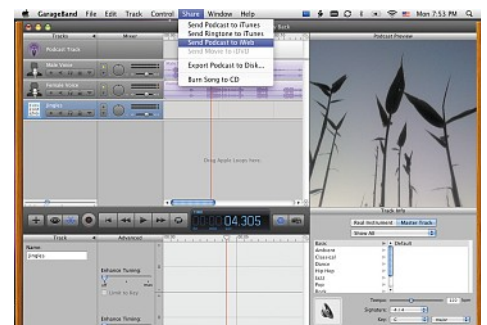
03 Double-click on any text object to replace the placeholder text. You can also drag movies, photos or audio onto a page or into a text field that the cursor is flashing in. Drag an image from the **Media** button or directly from **iPhoto** onto a placeholder image and it will be sized to fit the current placeholder borders.



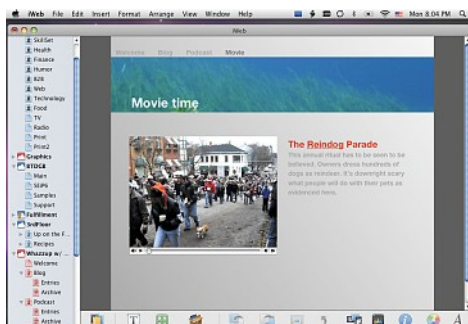
04 Click on the **Inspector** icon on your toolbar. When the **Inspector** appears, click on the **Page** icon on the top-left and then **Layout**. Here you can change the page size, the background colour and the browser background if you wish. You can turn any highlighted text into a link by clicking on the **Link** icon in the **Inspector** window.



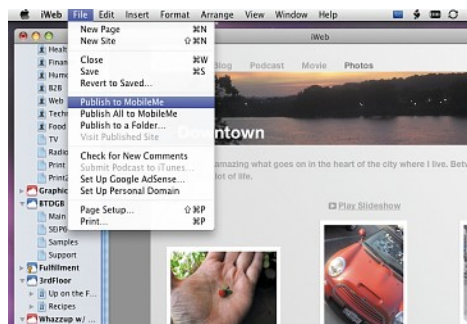
05 If working with a blog page, note that the entry object with the text and photo is an expandable entry index. Click **Entries** in the **Index** bar on the left to add entries. The image and all other text objects are placeholders. Note that the font for the entry index cannot be changed, though the font for the entries themselves can be.



06 The podcast page is like the blog page, but with the image replaced by your podcast. **iWeb** works seamlessly with **GarageBand**. Record your podcast in **GarageBand**, then go to **Share > Share with iWeb**. **iWeb** will ask you which blog you want to send it to. **iWeb** even imports the title for you. You just need to add the description.



07 The **Movie** page allows you to put up a movie by dragging it in from the **Media** button or from **iPhoto**. With the **Photos** page, you can create an online album and slideshow of up to 500 images, just by dragging them into the placeholder images. The **Albums** page allows you to combine multiple **Photos** pages into one.



08 If you have a **MobileMe** account, even a trial account, publishing is straightforward. Go to **File > Publish to MobileMe** or click on the **Publish** button. To view your site on **MobileMe**, click on the **Visit** button. If you use another web service, choose **Publish to a Folder**. You then can upload the folder via **FTP** or **Safari** to your hosting service. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



If you have an image on a page that could use a bit of sprucing up, click on it and then click on the **Adjust** icon in the toolbar. The effect will be subtle but you can always undo it.

EXPERT TIP

If you have a **MobileMe** account and own a domain, **MobileMe** can host the name for you by choosing **Set Up Personal Domain** from the **File** menu.



OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

Access original iPhoto images

Sometimes, user-friendliness makes for needless complexity elsewhere...



PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton

Occupation: Freelance consultant and trainer

System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), MacBook (2.16GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800).

Pacifist will open up installer packages, allowing selective installation of complex applications.

The other day, I had an email from a regular *MacFormat This Week* listener. It was a simple request: they wanted to have instant access to their original image files in *iPhoto '08* after they'd been deleted from the camera. At least, it sounded simple.

You can, of course, export files from *iPhoto* in their original format by going to File > Export, then from the Kind pop-up, choose **Original**. Choose a naming scheme (if you wish), then click **Export**.

Remember to create a new folder for the files, otherwise you'll have a Desktop littered with JPEGs (or TIFFs). But surely, it could be more, er, simple? Yes, it can.

The question of where *iPhoto* puts your original image files is as old as *iPhoto* itself, and the location itself has changed, not quite with each new version, but regularly enough to keep us on our toes. Here's how to find them in *iPhoto '08*:

- 1) Open a *Finder* window
- 2) In the **Places** section of the sidebar

(if you're using Leopard), choose **Pictures**. If you haven't an alias to your **Pictures** folder here, you'll find the original in [Your Hard Disk] > Users > [your username]. (By the way, Unix-type operating systems such as Mac OS X usually shorten that entire file path to a single character: ~. So, I could just have said go to ~ > Pictures).

3) In your **Pictures** folder, right-click (or [Ctrl]-click) your *iPhoto* Library; choose **Show Package Contents**.

4) Drag the **Originals** folder to the Sidebar, in order to create an alias; for even quicker access you could drag it to the Stacks section of your Dock, next to the Trash. Incidentally, please be aware that under no circumstances should you

move the **Originals** folder out of your *iPhoto* Library or rename it.

Create an alias

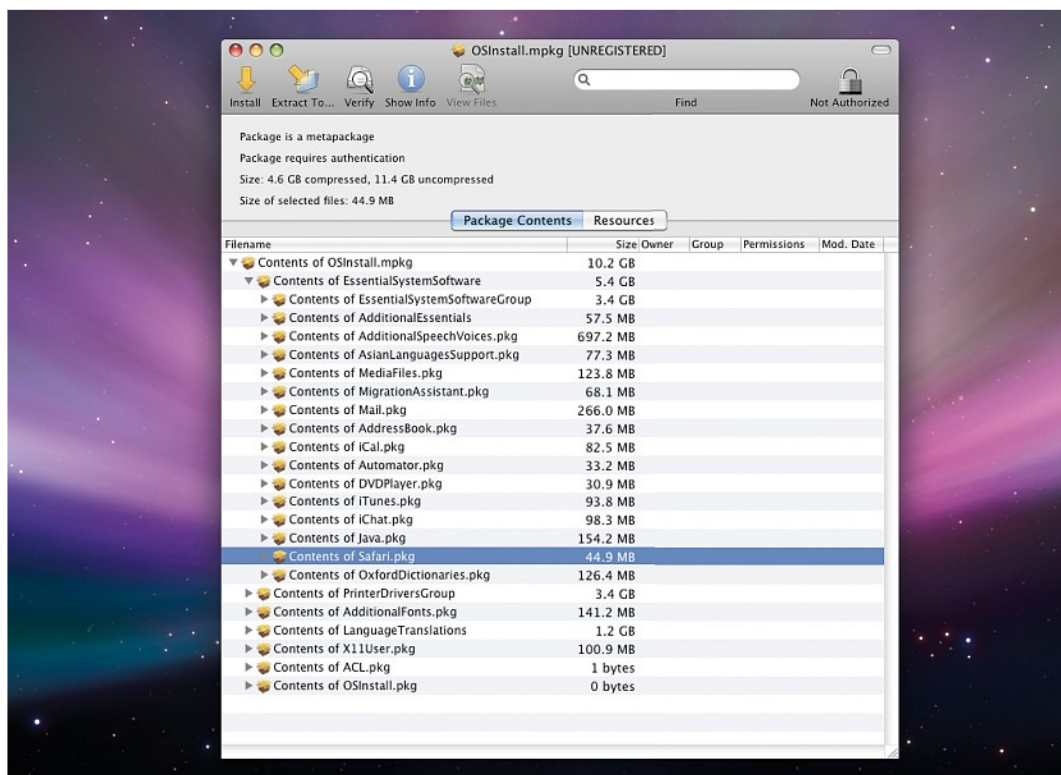
Sometimes it can be a little tricky dragging items around in order to create aliases, so if you want to you can create the alias before you move it: simply click on the original file (in a *Finder* window) and go to File > Make Alias. Once you've moved the alias from the same location as the original you can safely remove the alias, you should now have instant, drag-and-drop access to the original files that *iPhoto* imported from your camera.

This squirrel-like behaviour isn't confined to *iPhoto*: *iMovie* project files similarly contain the media used in the project plus text files listing the attributes of the project; application (.app) files also have hidden treasures. However, when it comes to hiding files away for the sake of simplicity installer package (.pkg) files take some beating.

You might wonder why anyone would want to look inside an installer package, but there are times when it's useful, even more so when it comes to their larger siblings: multi-package (.mpkg) files. Let's say, that you installed an unstable new version of one of Mac OS X's core apps – *Safari*, for instance – and wanted to revert to the version you installed with Leopard. What would you do: reinstall Leopard? Well, ordinarily that's just what you'd have to do. However, using an app such as *Pacifist* (£15, www.charlessoft.com), you could open up the .mpkg file used for Leopard's main installation and extract only the *Safari* installer before reinstalling it. *Pacifist* will also open up disk image (.dmg) files and .zip archives, among a huge number of other formats.

It's a paradox, then, that in order to achieve user-friendliness – a nice, neat, *iPhoto* Library or application installer, for instance – simplicity and transparency sometimes have to be sacrificed. Still, at least doing things that way gives us the choice – after all, much as we're all supposed to eat healthily, sometimes it's good to order a takeaway. ●

“Create a new folder for the files, otherwise you'll have a Desktop littered with JPEGs”



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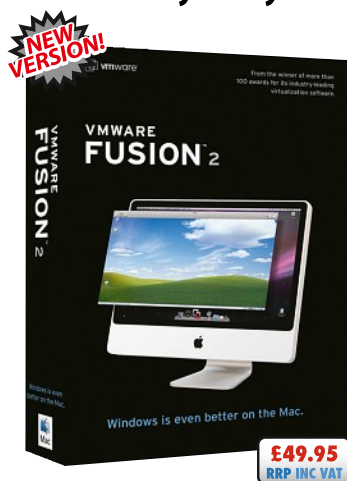
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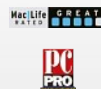
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Back up with Time Machine

Time Machine makes backing up and restoring your data a doddle. Here's your guide to using it

You might use your Mac to keep your music and photo collections organised, upload a blog to your web space, or keep in touch with friends and family through email. However you use yours, most of us have some of our most cherished memories stored on our hard drives. All of which means it's essential to keep those precious files backed up, just in case a hard disk failure strikes your system. Until the release of Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard), backing up was left to the individual Mac user. With Leopard, however, Apple introduced *Time Machine*, which you might call 'backup for the rest of us'.

The first time you plug an external FireWire or USB 2.0 hard disk into your Mac you'll be asked if you want to use it as your *Time Machine* backup disk. If you do, click **Use as backup disk**, and *Time Machine* will automatically take over. However, it's a good idea to find out

more about how *Time Machine* ticks so that you can fine-tune it to your exact requirements. You might, for instance, want to change the interval between backups, or perhaps exclude certain folders from being backed up in the first place. You'll find out how to do these – and more – over the next few pages.

Disk formats

The first thing you should know about *Time Machine* is that the external hard disk you use needs to be formatted in a specific way in order to work properly; if you don't do this, backups might stop

"It's essential to keep those precious files backed up, just in case a hard disk failure strikes your system"

when the amount of data backed up reaches around the 10GB mark. Many manufacturers – LaCie and Western Digital, for instance – make a selection of products specifically targeted at Mac users that offer plug-and-play capability, while other products might be more suited to use with Windows, unless you reformat them first. If you're at all unsure when buying a disk for use with *Time Machine*, check the specification. Once you have the disk you can use Mac OS X's *Disk Utility* to confirm that the disk will work properly and make changes to the formatting if needed. Here's how:

- 1) With the disk plugged into your Mac, launch *Disk Utility* (from Applications > Utilities).
- 2) On the left of the *Disk Utility* window you'll see a column that contains icons for all the disks attached to your Mac, either internally (your Mac's startup disk, for instance) or externally. Each disk has a ▶

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

For *Time Machine*:

- A Mac running Mac OS X 10.5 or higher
 - A large hard disk; ideally, higher in capacity than the disk you're backing up
- For *Time Capsule*:
- Mac OS X 10.5.2 or higher if using with *Time Machine*; otherwise Mac OS X 10.4 or later with *AirPort Utility* v5.3 or later

ABOVE: *Time Machine* gives you the power to retrieve individual files that once seemed lost to the ether.

QUICK TIP



External internals

If you're on a budget, it can be cheaper to buy a large internal hard disk plus an external FireWire or USB 2.0 enclosure from outlets such as Dabs (www.dabs.com) or Storage Depot (www.storage depot.co.uk). Bear in mind, though, that the disk will almost certainly be partitioned using the Master Boot Record scheme, and will therefore need to be reformatted to the appropriate scheme using *Disk Utility*.

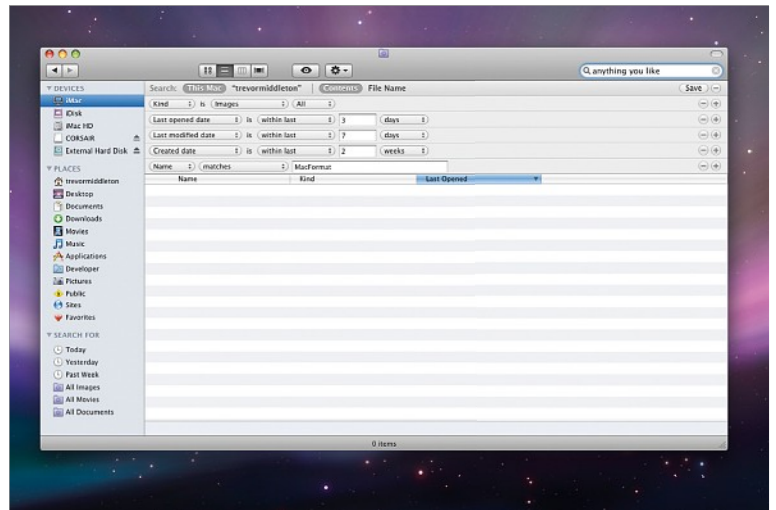
physical description – for instance, '111.8GB Fujitsu' – below which (and slightly inset) will be one or more icons describing the volumes into which the disk is subdivided. Click the main physical description of your intended backup disk, and look at the status information in the bottom right-hand corner of the *Disk Utility* window. If you're going to use the disk with a PowerPC Mac, the Partition Map Scheme should read **Apple Partition Map**; if you're using it with an Intel Mac it should say **GUID Partition Table**. If it reads **Master Boot Record**, the disk has been formatted for use with a Windows PC, and must be reformatted.

3) Next, turn your attention to the formatted volume listed below the main description of your external hard disk. Click its name and check the description of its format in the bottom-left corner of the *Disk Utility* window. This should read **Mac OS Extended**. If it reads **MS-DOS (FAT32)**, the disk must be reformatted.

A guide to preparing and using disks with *Time Machine* follows.

Time Machine and AirPort Disks

If you're lucky enough to have an AirPort Extreme Base Station and Mac OS X 10.4.8 or later, you can connect a USB 2.0 hard disk to the Base Station for use as an AirPort Disk for sharing files across the wireless network. Unfortunately, if you



Harnessing the power of Spotlight to that of *Time Machine* makes it a doddle to find that missing file.

"You can use a single disk to back up multiple Macs, as *Time Machine* will create a backup folder for each"

have Leopard, you can't (at the time of writing, anyway) use your AirPort Disk with *Time Machine*. We understand that Apple regards this as a system bug and is working on a fix; it's certainly something we'd like to see – soon!

If you've installed any antivirus software on your Mac, you'd do well to exclude your backup disk from virus scanning, as this can slow down *Time Machine* – the files have, after all, already been scanned. Check the **Help** section of your chosen antivirus product for details on setting exclusion policies.

If you're using *Aperture*, Apple's image management and processing software, Apple advises that you should have at least Mac OS X 10.5.3 if you intend to use *Time Machine* to back up your *Aperture* Library. The only reason given by Apple for this is that "earlier versions of Leopard did not provide full compatibility between *Time Machine* and *Aperture*".

Using certain characters in your Mac's name in the **Sharing System Preferences**

pane can cause some backups not to appear when you attempt to restore a file using the *Time Machine* interface. You should therefore go to System Preferences > Sharing and make sure that the **Computer Name** field contains only numbers and upper or lowercase letters.

Backing up multiple Macs

You can use a single disk to back up multiple Macs, as *Time Machine* will create a different backup folder for each. If you're moving the same disk between a number of Macs or sharing a *Time Capsule*, you should make sure that each Mac is given a different name in System Preferences > Sharing, using the guidelines above.

You can, incidentally, make backups across an Ethernet or AirPort network using a FireWire or USB 2.0 drive attached to one of your Macs: just remember to enable **Personal File Sharing** in System Preferences > Sharing. This is probably not the most efficient way of backing up, as network traffic is greatly increased during backups.

If you dismissed the *Time Machine* dialogue the first time you attached your external disk, no problem. Once you're ready to start backing up, go to *Time Machine's* System Preferences pane, where you can choose your backup disk and get

USING TIME CAPSULE

Time Capsule is essentially an AirPort Extreme base station with the addition of an internal hard disk. Priced at £199 for the 500GB option, or £329 for the 1TB, *Time Capsule* isn't cheap, but it looks the part and does its job well.

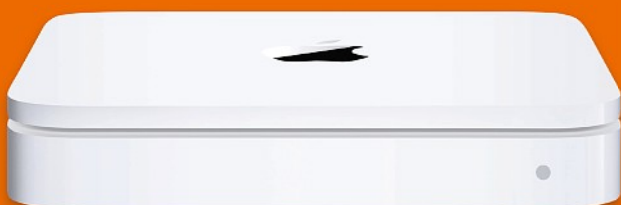
Setting up the *Time Capsule* is easy: from *Time Machine's* System Preferences, click **Choose backup Disk (or Change Disk, if you've already chosen one)**. Next, click **Set Up Time Capsule**, and *AirPort Utility* will launch. Alternatively, you could go straight to *AirPort Utility* (in Applications > Utilities).

If *AirPort Utility* has problems picking up your new *Time Capsule*, try resetting it: using a small pointed object (such as the end of a ballpoint pen or a straightened paperclip) push the Reset button, which is located on the back of the *Time Capsule*, to the right of the

Ethernet ports. Hold the reset button until the light on the front flashes amber, denoting that it has been returned to its default settings.

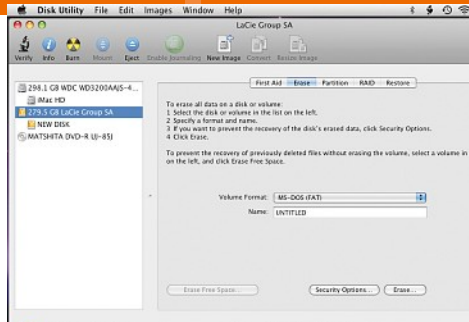
Once *AirPort Utility* has recognised *Time Capsule* you'll need to set it up for use on your wireless network. Just choose whether you want it to join your current wireless network or create a new one. You'll also need to set a password.

Once the initial setup has been completed, you'll need to connect to your *Time Capsule*: launch a *Finder* window and look for it in the sidebar. Click **Connect As...**, enter the password you chose in *AirPort Utility* and it will mount on your Desktop. Make sure that you choose to save the password in your keychain. Once you've done that, go to System Preferences > *Time Machine* and choose it as your backup disk.

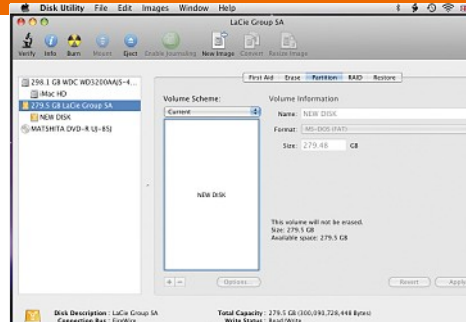


The first time you plug an external hard disk into your Mac, and you'll be asked if you want to use it for *Time Machine*.

STEP BY STEP Preparing a new disk for use with Time Machine



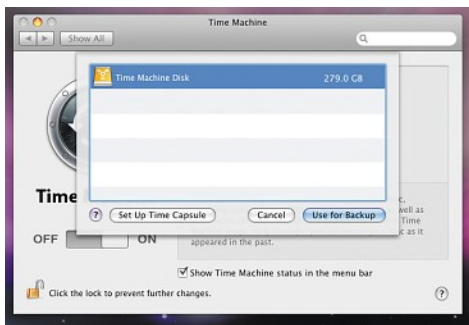
01 If you've just bought a new disk for use with *Time Machine*, you'll need to check that it's properly set up. First, attach the disk to your Mac and launch *Disk Utility* (from Applications > Utilities). From the list on the left of the application window choose the (uppermost) physical description of your disk as we've done here.



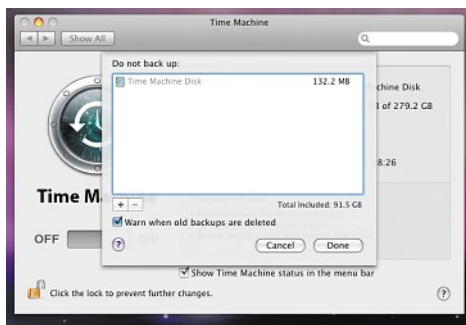
02 Click on the **Partition** tab. Notice that, according to the (greyed out) Format pull-down, this volume has had MS-DOS (FAT) formatting applied. In addition, in the bottom-right corner of the application window the Partition Map Scheme is given as **Master Boot Record**, which is more suited to Windows disks. Both need changing.



03 From the **Volume Scheme** pull-down, select the desired number of disk partitions. Then click **Options...** to choose the partition scheme: for Intel Macs choose **GUID Partition Table**; for PowerPC Macs choose **Apple Partition Map**. Click **OK**. Ensure the Format pull-down says **Mac OS Extended (Journaled)**. Click **Apply**, then **Partition**.



04 Once your disk has been formatted you'll need to set it up to work with *Time Machine*. First, go to System Preferences > Time Machine. To enable *Time Machine*, either toggle the slider to the **On** position or click **Choose Backup Disk**. When the sheet appears, choose your new disk from the list and click **Use for Backup**.



05 It's a good idea to back up your entire hard disk. However, you might want to exclude some parts of your hard disk from the backup: for instance, you might prefer to restore Leopard from an installation disc, which removes the need to back up the **System** folder. Go to System Preferences > Time Machine and click on **Options**.



06 When the screen appears, click the + button below the list of items you don't want to back up (which should include your backup disk). Navigate to the **System** folder at the root level of your startup disk, click on it, and click **Exclude**. A dialog will appear asking if you want to exclude other system files. Click **Exclude All System Files**.

started. We'll show you how in our step-by-step guide later on.

You don't have to back up every single item on your Mac's hard disk: for instance, you might want to exclude all system files. This makes sense if you want to conserve space on your backup disk; you can always use either the installation discs that came with your Mac or a bought copy of Leopard to install a clean copy of your system after a system crash. You won't, however, have the option of using your *Time Machine* backup to perform a full system restore should the need arise.

Creating your first backup

When *Time Machine* creates its first backup, it takes quite a while to do it. This is because it's making a complete copy of

everything you've chosen to back up. After this initial backup, *Time Machine* will make copies only of those files that have been changed since the previous backup – a so-called 'incremental' backup.

Time Machine makes backups every hour, as long as your backup disk is attached to your Mac and your Mac is turned on and active (that is to say, not in **Sleep** mode). In fact, it takes backups every hour out of the previous 24 hours, daily backups to cover the past month

"If Time Machine is unable to take a backup it will resume its duties next time your Mac is awake"

and then every week until your backup disk is full. Unless you're happy to overwrite your oldest backups, you'll need to attach another disk once your current one is full and choose it in System Preferences > Time Machine – just make sure it has a different name to the previous one. If *Time Machine* is unable to take a backup it will resume its duties the next time your Mac is awake and the disk is again available.

Depending on the way you like to work, you might feel that one backup every hour is too often (or not often enough). To change this, open *Terminal* (from Applications > Utilities), and type the following (all on one line), then hit the [Enter] key:

```
sudo defaults write /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/com.apple.backupd-auto StartInterval -int 3600
```

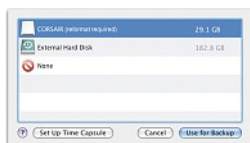
QUICK TIP



iTimeMachine utility

As we said earlier, Mac OS X does not yet officially support backups to Airport disks. However, it was almost inevitable that an independent developer would release a utility that would enable this feature, and that's exactly what *iTimeMachine* does (donationware from www.xiotios.com/itimemachine.html). Just a word of warning though: at the time of writing it only works with Mac OS 10.5.2 and 10.5.3.

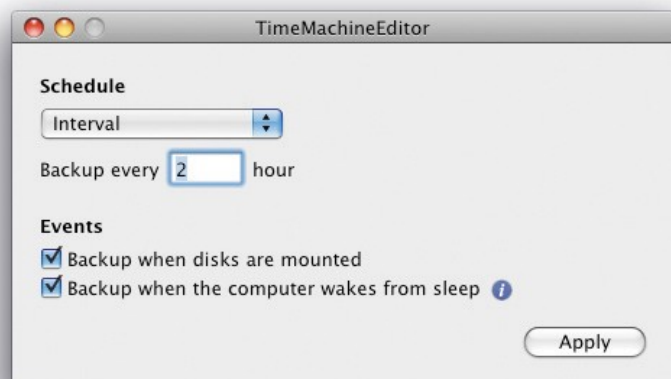
TOOL SCHOOL



Reformat required

Time Machine's System Preferences will give you a warning if your disk isn't suitably formatted. Click **Choose Backup Disk** (or **Change Disk** if you've already chosen one), and you'll see a 'Reformat Required' warning appear in brackets.

TimeMachineEditor is a simple utility that enables you to be a lot more flexible when choosing your backup intervals.

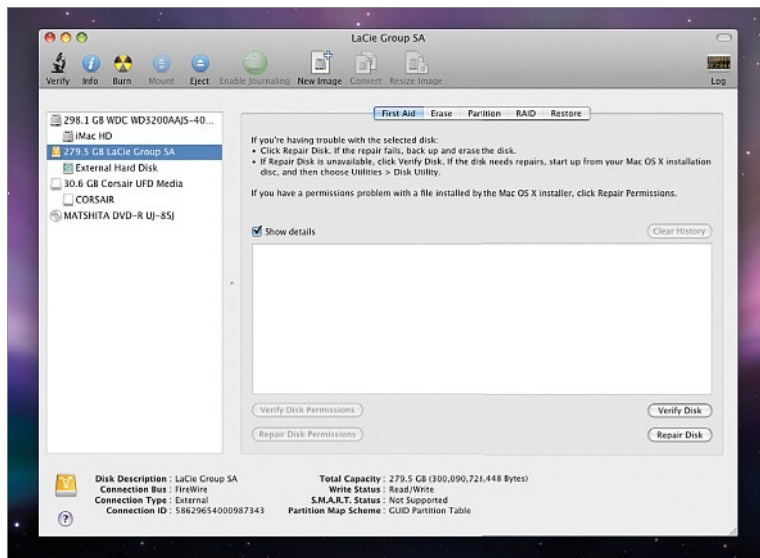


Replace 3600 with your desired backup interval in seconds. For example, you could set a two-hourly backup like so:

```
sudo defaults write /System/Library/LaunchDaemons/  
com.apple.backupd-auto StartInterval -int 7200
```

If you'd rather not use *Terminal*, *TimeMachineEditor* (free from <http://time.software.free.fr/timemachineeditor>) has a much friendlier graphical interface, and enables you to set either short backup intervals measured in hours or schedule daily, weekly or monthly backups to take place at specific times. You can also set up combinations of daily, weekly and monthly backups.

The *Time Machine* icon is usually located in the Dock; if you can't find it there, try your Mac's **Applications** folder. The first thing you should notice when you launch it is the vertical timescale to the right of the screen. This enables you to navigate back and forth through *Time Machine's* snapshots of your system using the large arrows near the timescale – you should see your deleted files repopulate the window from past backups. Once you've found the file you're looking for,



Use Mac OS X's *Disk Utility* to check that your intended backup disk will work properly.

click the **Restore** button, and it will be returned to the appropriate place in your current system.

When you want to restore some types of file, your best starting place is the folder or Mac OS X application from which you deleted it. So, if you deleted an email, launch *Mail*; for a photo launch *iPhoto*. *Time Machine* is integrated with every aspect of Leopard, so when you launch it, those application windows will

remain open, allowing you to search for your lost files. The same thing will happen if you navigate to the folder from which you deleted a misplaced file. Alternatively, if you remain in *Finder* as you launch *Time Machine*, a new *Finder* window will open.

Time Machine and Spotlight

As you might expect, *Time Machine* can work alongside *Spotlight*, Mac OS X's desktop search technology, in order to make it even easier to find that deleted file. Simply open a new *Spotlight* window using the default keyboard command (**⌘ + ⌘ + [Spacebar]**), and add as many search criteria as you need to, both by entering text in the *Spotlight* field in the top right-hand corner, and by using the **+** button to add more information, such as the date the item was created.

Note that you can't start up your Mac from a *Time Machine* backup. Instead, you'll need to use your Leopard installation disc, either by inserting the disc and rebooting while holding down the **[C]** key on your keyboard, or by double-clicking the **Install Mac OS X** icon when the disc mounts on the Desktop. If you think your problem might be a faulty startup disk, we'd strongly suggest you at least use the **First Aid** section of *Disk Utility* (from the **Utilities** menu in the Mac OS X installer) to verify and repair the disk. Sometimes, zeroing out the data on the disk will eliminate file system conflicts, and allow you to start afresh.

Once you're satisfied that your startup disk is okay, restore your system by going to **Utilities > Restore System from Backup**. Use the onscreen instructions to select the *Time Machine* backup you want to use to resurrect your system.

Trevor Middleton

"Time Machine can work alongside Spotlight in order to make it easier to find that deleted file"

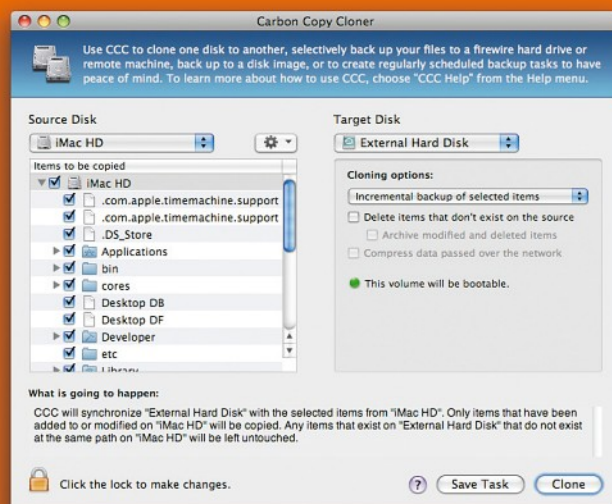
MAKE BOOTABLE BACKUPS WITH CARBON COPY CLONER

SuperDuper! (£16 from www.shirt-pocket.com) and *Carbon Copy Cloner* (donationware from www.bombich.com) have a trick up their sleeves that can't yet be matched by *Time Machine* – making a bootable clone of your hard disk.

Whereas *Time Machine* relies on making hourly snapshots of your system, both *Carbon Copy Cloner* and *SuperDuper!* create a mirror image of your startup disk from which you can boot if anything goes wrong. It's then a simple matter of booting from the done, reformatting your main startup disk and transferring everything back again. You can also make scheduled backups, recording only changes made to files since your last backup.

If you'd rather restore your system from an installation disc, you can use your backup clone to reinstate the rest of your files using Mac OS X's *Migration Assistant* (from **Applications > Utilities**).

Both *Carbon Copy Cloner* and *SuperDuper!* are available for Mac OS X 10.2 and upwards.



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- 20 minutes of your time
- Internal and/or external data storage

Though it's built into OS X and can help you with just about every kind of disk maintenance you might need, *Disk Utility* is hidden away in your Applications > Utilities folder. Getting to know it can make your life easier in many situations, and can help to keep your Mac running as smoothly as you're used to.

Ian Tromp

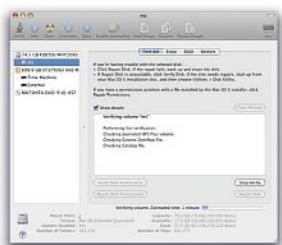


Finding your way around

On the left of the two-pane layout is a list of available media, while the right pane displays the maintenance options. At the bottom is a summary of various aspects of the drive, such as its capacity and folder numbers. Hit **⌘+I** to reveal more information.

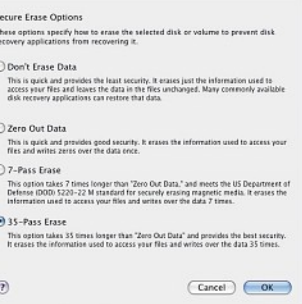
Checking and repairing disk integrity

Clicking **Verify Disk** will check your disk for any problems, and if it finds any, you can then use **Repair Disk** to fix the disk. There's an important exception: your startup disk. Although you can verify your startup disk, if you want to repair it, you'll need to boot up from the original OS X disk and run *Disk Utility* from the **Installation** menu.



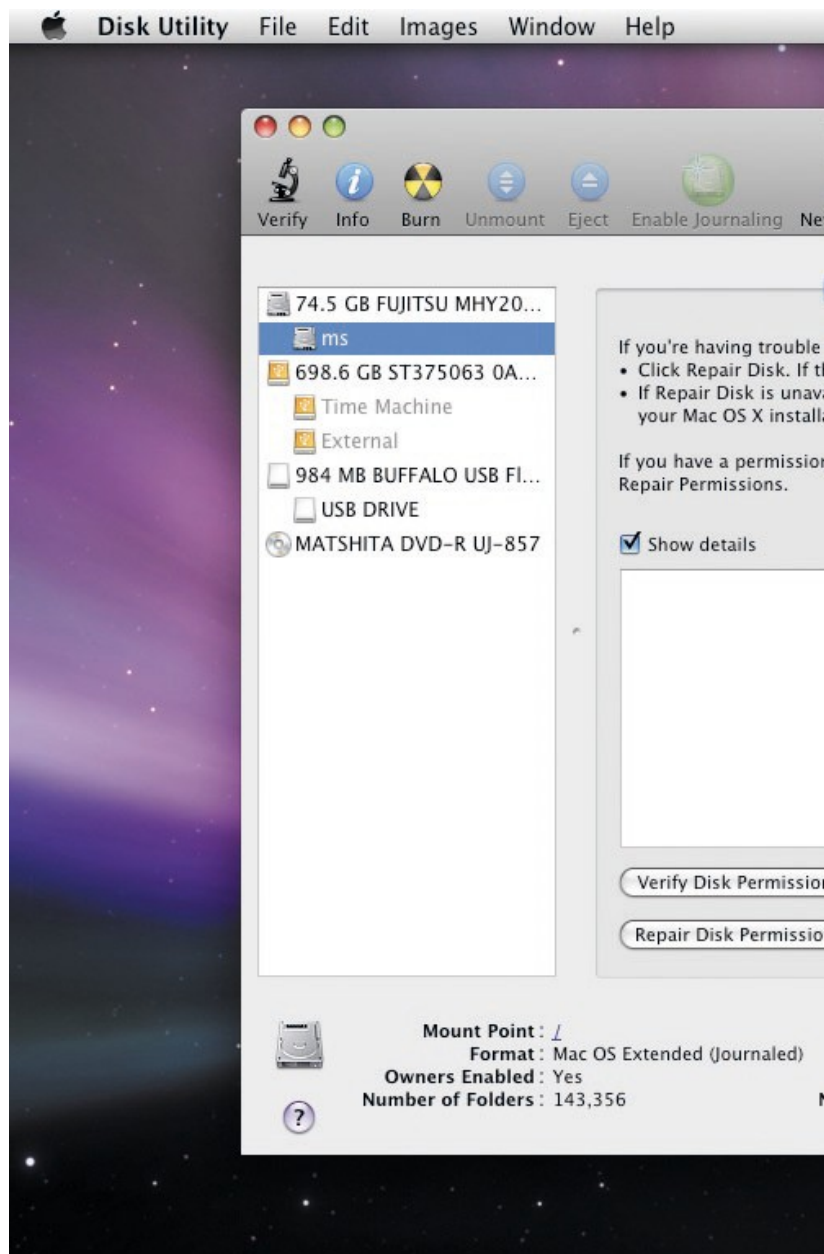
Repair Disk Permissions

Many of the applications on your Mac rely on **Disk Permissions** being correctly assigned and interpreted to run properly. Clicking **Repair Disk Permissions** is a useful step for solving problems with apps that aren't running as you'd expect.



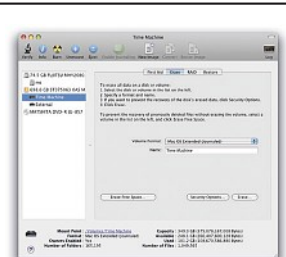
Leave no trace

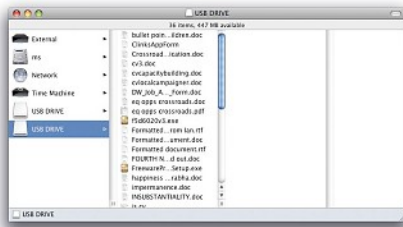
With a standard erase, data can still be recovered from the drive, so if you want to avoid this, be sure to click **Security Options** and then select one of the higher security erase options. This will take longer than a standard erase, especially if you use 35-Pass Erase, but at least you know it's unlikely anyone could access your information.



Formatting a disk or volume

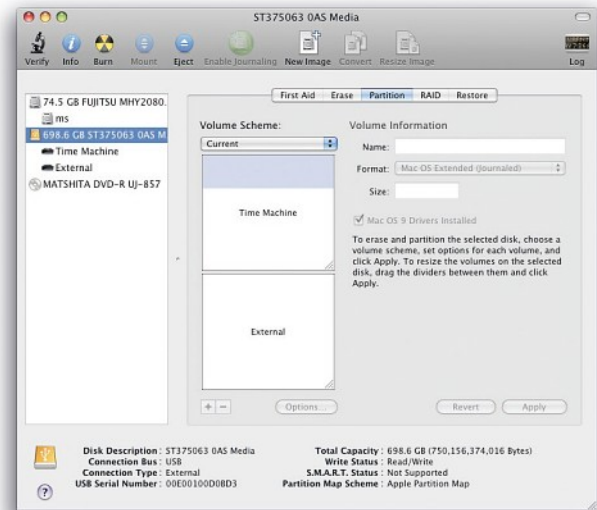
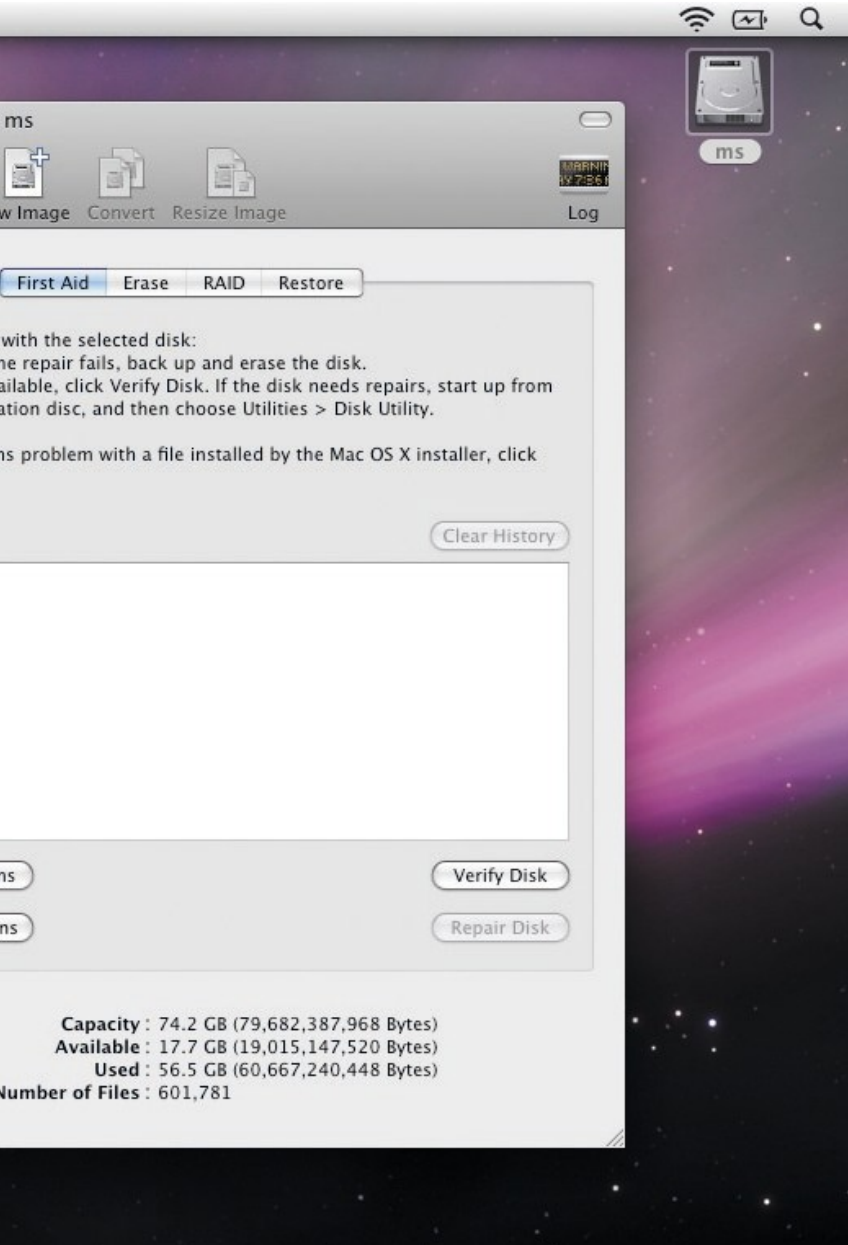
To format a disk or volume, select it and then click the **Erase** tab. Select the volume format and specify a name for your newly erased drive, and then click **Erase...** If you're only going to use the drive on Macs, select one of the Mac OS X formats, but if you're going need to use it on a Windows PC, select **MS-DOS (FAT)**.





Working with disk images

Once you've made a disk image, it'll show up in the left panel, and when you select it, you'll be able to make changes to it – all from the **Images** menu. Double-click the **.dmg** file to mount the volume and then select it and hit **⌘+[R]** to see what's inside the disk image in *Finder*.

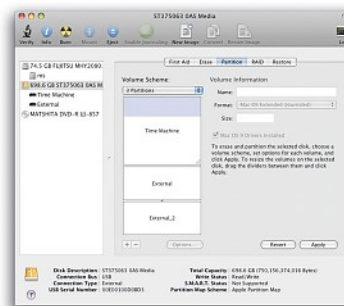


Partitioning part 1

Making a new partition in OS X is really easy. Just select the drive you want to partition in the left-hand panel. You'll see from the screenshot that this drive is already split into two volumes. You can only partition a drive, and not any of the volumes on the drive, so you'll need to select the top level of the drive before you'll see the **Partition** tab on the right.

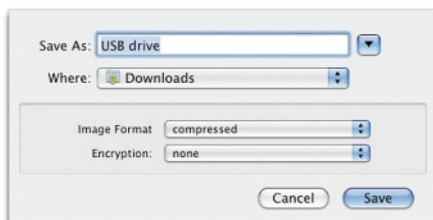
Partitioning part 2

By selecting an option from the pull-down **Partition Schemes** menu, you can set the number of volumes you want on your disk. Doing it this way will erase all the data on your drive and then apply the selected Partition Scheme. *Disk Utility* is good at letting you know when you're about to delete data, but do still be careful or you could erase data by mistake!



Partitioning part 3

If your drive is already partitioned, another way of adding a new volume is by selecting one of the existing partitions and then clicking on the **+** at the bottom-left of the representation of the drive's volumes. This way you won't erase the data that's already on the volume. You can specify the size of the selected volume in the **Size** box, or use the drag bar.



Creating an image

If you want to back up your USB drive, select it in *Disk Utility* and then click **New Image**. In the **Save** dialog you can specify where you want the image saved and whether you want it compressed or encrypted (and to what level).

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

File menu shortcuts

⌘+[N] – Opens a Disk Utility window
 ⌘+[I] – Get info about the selected drive
 ⌘+[R] – Reveals the selected drive in *Finder*
 ⌘+[⌘]+[U] – Unmounts the selected drive in *Disk Utility*
 ⌘+[J] – Enables journaling on the selected drive

⌘+[E] – Ejects the selected drive
 ⌘+[⌘]+[O] – Opens a disk image

Images menu shortcuts

⌘+[B] – Burns a disk image to CD or DVD

Window menu shortcuts

⌘+[M] – Minimises *Disk Utility*
 ⌘+[L] – Shows *Disk Utility* Log

Create your own 3D movies

Unleash your creativity with MovieStorm, an easy and fun 3D graphics and animation program

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Mac with Intel processor
- Mac OS X 10.4
- 1GB RAM
- Broadband connection



Find accompanying tutorial files on this issue's disc.

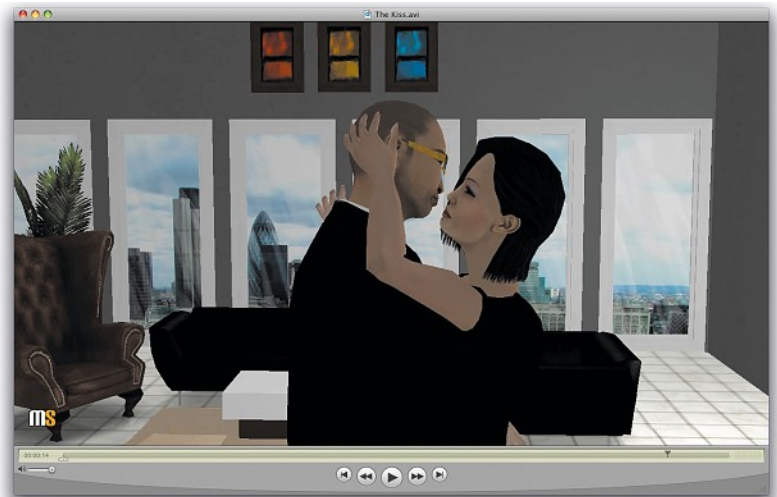
Most 3D animation programs are complicated beasts. Not only do you need to spend ages creating your 3D characters and objects, you also need the patience of a saint to master the animation process as you carefully move your characters around the screen.

MovieStorm, however, takes an entirely new approach to animation that enables even complete beginners to create impressive animations in a matter of minutes. Instead of painstakingly adjusting the position of your characters in order to make them move, in MovieStorm you just click on a character or object in order to display a menu of predefined animation options. You can choose options such as 'sit' or 'move here', and even make two characters kiss or fight. Just select the action that you want and MovieStorm automatically creates the required animation sequence.

Character packs

You can also modify the appearance of your characters using the built-in editing tools, or buy additional content packs that provide new ready-made characters and objects for you to use. The sci-fi pack is a popular choice (£9.99), while other packs boast material designed for music videos, soap-opera dramas and even the US Presidential Election (£6.99).

Everyone who downloads the program – free from www.moviestorm.co.uk –



MovieStorm does all the hard work for you when it comes to animating your 3D characters.

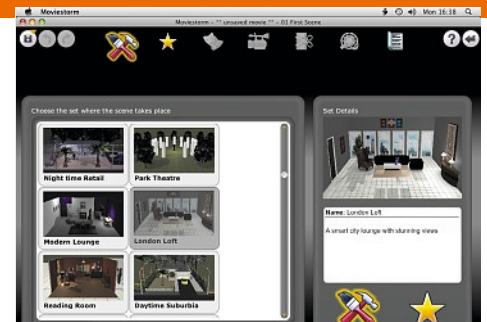
“Buy additional content packs that provide new ready-made characters and objects for you to use”

gets their own 'Director's page' where they can upload their movies. Just take a look at people's pages to get an idea of what's possible. MovieStorm was the program used to create the recent Coke

advert that spoofs the style of *Grand Theft Auto IV* (<http://tinyurl.com/4ufo75>). The program has a built-in YouTube uploader, so check out the latter for plenty more content.

Like most 3D software, MovieStorm needs a decent 3D graphics chip, and older versions refused to work with the 'integrated' Intel GMA950 graphics chip used on older Macs. If you encounter problems then download the latest version of the program from the website. **Cliff Joseph**

STEP BY STEP Creating 3D movies with MovieStorm



01 You'll find MovieStorm on the disc, or go to www.moviestorm.co.uk. Sign up for an account on the website and download the CG Toolkit, which helps your Mac handle the 3D graphics system. Note that MovieStorm may not work with Macs powered by the Intel GMA950 integrated graphics chip.

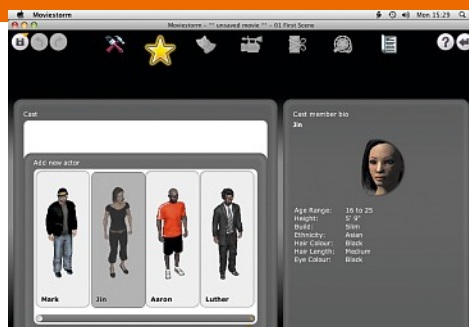
02 Launch MovieStorm and select **New Movie**. When you do this, the program asks if you want to use its Quick Start option, which guides you through the process of making a simple movie. It's worth doing this once just to see how the program works, but right now we'll just go straight in and create a new movie from scratch.

03 The first step is to select a 'set' – the scene where your movie takes place. The program includes a number of ready-made sets that you can use, such as a park, shopping mall or this trendy London loft. You can add some 3D 'actors' to the set straight away, but first let's click **Edit The Set** to take a closer look and make a few changes.

STEP BY STEP Creating 3D movies with MovieStorm... continued



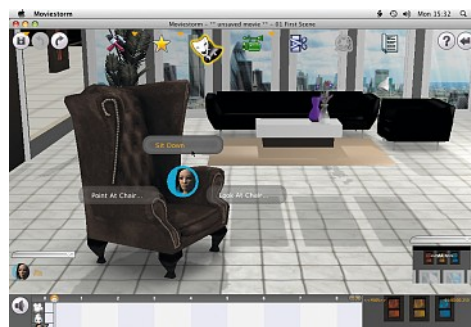
04 The set contains several items of furniture that have already been put in place for you. You can add further items by selecting them from the **library panel** at the bottom of the screen. Moving any item of furniture with the mouse can also alter set lighting, move the walls or change the colour of the floor. Remember to save regularly.



05 The next step is to add some 'actors'. Click the star at the top of the screen to switch into **Character view**. Again, there are several ready-made 'stock' characters that you can quickly choose and drop straight into the set. Clicking on a character brings up details such as age, build and hair colour. To modify these, click the green tick button.



06 *MovieStorm* gives you a lot of scope for modifying character appearance: change head and facial features, clothes and hair, and add items such as glasses or hats. You can even edit the shape of a character's nose, ears or eyebrows. You can then save your new stock character and use him/her again in other projects.



07 Now let's place our character on the set. Click the **masks** icon at the top of the screen to switch into **Director mode**. Select the Jin character from the panel just to the left of the big chair and then click on the chair. You'll see a number of options that determine how Jin interacts with the chair. Now select **Sit Down**.



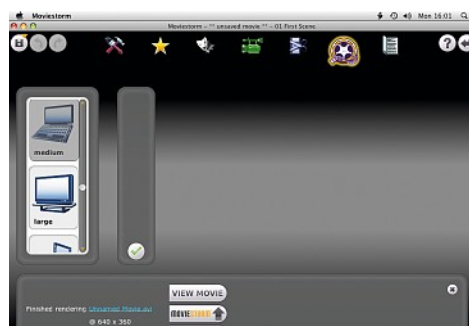
08 Jin is inserted into the scene, already sitting in the chair, so that you don't have to waste time fiddling with her limbs – as you would in most 3D programs. Click on Jin again and you'll see a number of additional options that enable you to change her pose or mood, stand her up, or even add props for her to hold, such as a guitar or a phone.



09 It's also easy to create complex animation sequences. Click on the floor in front of Jin and you'll see a button appear labelled **Move Here** – click it and *MovieStorm* will animate the Jin character so that she rises from the chair and walks across the floor to that spot. We've never seen an animation program that's so easy to use.



10 Add another character called Shin – select him from the panel in the lower-left corner. Now click on Jin and you'll see a new set of interactive options appear. If you were making an action movie you might select the 'punch up' option, but let's select **passionate kiss** to liven things up. *MovieStorm* takes care of all the animation for you.



11 When your movie is finished you can export it in various formats. There are 'small', 'medium' and 'large' options for exporting to an iPod, computer screen, or onto DVD for playing on TV. You can even upload to YouTube, or to your personal 'Director's page' on the *MovieStorm* website. There's also a custom option for advanced users.

TOOL SCHOOL

To provide even greater control, *MovieStorm* includes a 'gesturiser' tool that enables you to add detailed animated gestures to your characters, such as coughing, dancing, or even giving someone the finger. The only limit here is your imagination!



EXPERT TIP



More ambitious movie-makers will want to experiment with the **Camerawork mode**, which enables you to alter the camera angle and jazz things up.

Manage multiple clipboards

Discover how to add more than one item to your Mac's clipboard at a time!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.5 or later
- Items to copy from our disc
- Five minutes of time



You'll find a 15-day trial of *Clips* on the cover disc.

Copy, paste. Copy, paste. Copy, paste. Occasionally, the Mac clipboard is not enough. When you've multiple items to transfer from one place to another, Mac OS X's single clipboard becomes a burdensome limitation. And when you find yourself copying the same thing time and time again, wouldn't it be easier to have it at hand, rather than finding it using *Spotlight*, revealing it in *Finder*, opening the document, copying then pasting?

If you're currently cheering and shouting "Yes! YES! YES!" in a manner that would make Meg Ryan (or, Sally Albright) blush, then Conceited Software's *Clips* (<http://conceitedsoftware.com/products/clips>) is for you. This shareware system add-on is a multiple clipboards manager, and it differentiates itself from similar applications by providing an

"You get various ways of accessing your clipboard items, and can therefore find a way of working with Clips that suits you"

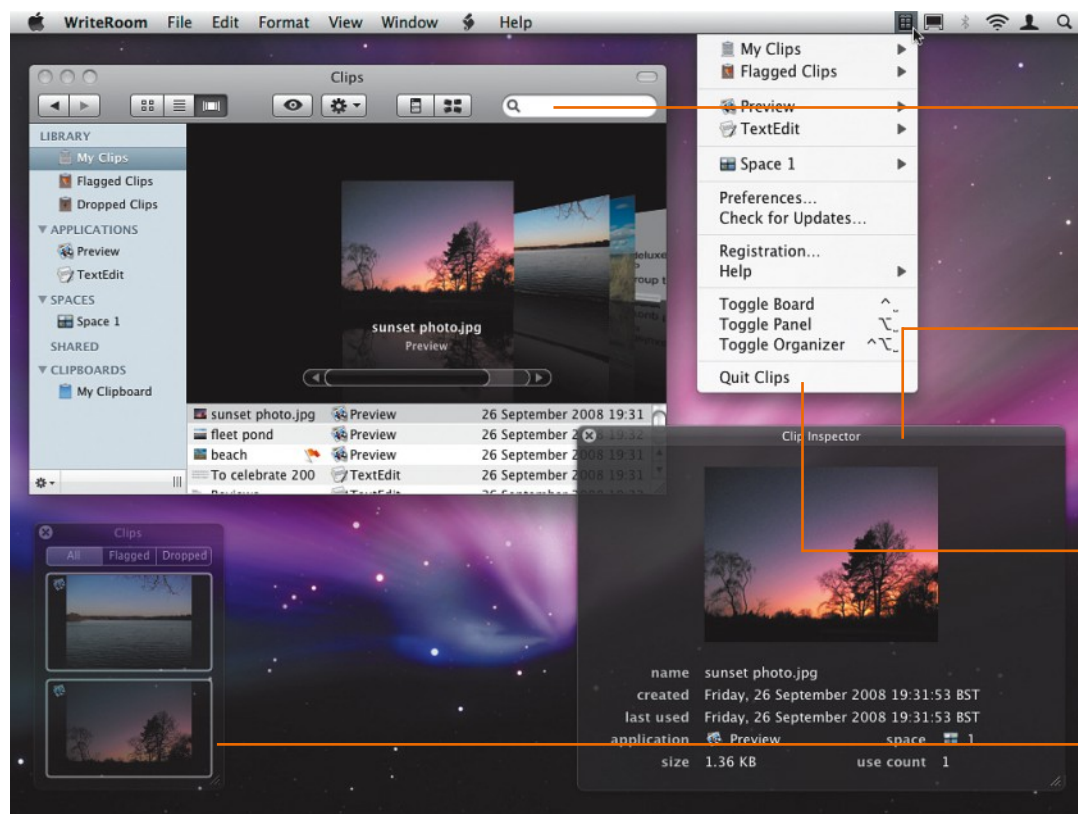
interface that apes common Mac system components. For example, clips are organised in the cunningly named Organizer, which resembles *Finder*, and system-wide access and clips arrangement is available via the Board, which has more than a whiff of *Dashboard* about it. (Like *Dashboard*, it can be called via the optional Dock icon.) And elsewhere, subtler Mac conventions are apparent: the application's concept

recalls *Time Machine* – but for the clipboard; and *Mail*-like flags can be used to store clips permanently, rather than them vanishing once your (user-defined) number of temporary clipboards is full.

It's this level of flexibility that makes *Clips* stand out from the competition. You get various ways of accessing your clipboard items, and can therefore find a way of working with *Clips* that suits you. For example, keyboard lovers will find the system-wide shortcuts for toggling the **Board**, **Panel** and **Organizer** useful, along with the five definable shortcuts for pasting recent clips. And anyone into getting things done should whoop with glee upon noting how *Clips* groups clips by application.

In this tutorial we'll get you started with *Clips* and show you its features. **Craig Grannell**

TOP FEATURES | Clip features to shout about



The Organizer

The **Organizer** is used for managing clips and clipboards. Look twice otherwise you might mistake it for a normal *Finder* window.

The Inspector

The **Clip Inspector** provides information about the selected clip. It's a lot like Quick View, but there's meta-data to be had here.

The menu bar

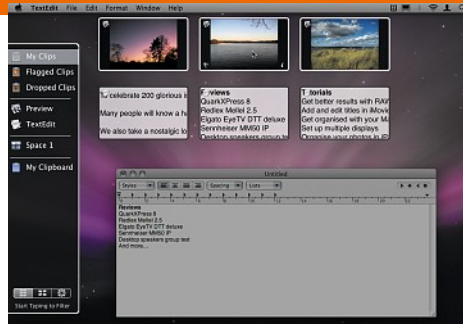
Access preferences, clips and *Clips* interface elements from the menu bar, which resides on the right-hand side of your Desktop bar.

The clips panel

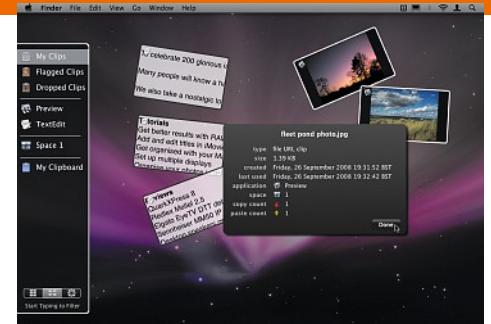
The **Panel** can be used for dragging and pasting clips. This is where all the action is when you're working.

STEP BY STEP Getting started with Clips

01 Launch *Clips* and then open the folder called 'MacFormat Clips items' (find it on the disc in In the Mag > Tutorial) in *Finder*. Launch *TextEdit* and open the three RTF files. For each one, select its contents and copy them (via *Edit > Copy* or ⌘+C). Next, open the three JPEG image files in *Preview*, then select and copy each in turn.



02 Press [Ctrl]+[Spacebar] to open the **Clips Board**. Your clips will be shown in a snap-to-grid fashion. Hit [esc] to close the **Board**, bring *TextEdit* to the front and create a new document. Reopen the **Clips Board** and click on an RTF clip. It'll be copied to *TextEdit*. Do the same with one of the images.



03 Like in *Finder*, clips can be rearranged by dragging them, and alternate views are available. In the **Board**, click the **second** button in the set at the bottom of the left-hand pane. The clips will scatter around the screen and can be dragged into any position. Each clip's info button provides more information about the item.

STEP BY STEP Filtering and managing clips

01 Organisation is a key part of *Clips*, and of the utmost importance when you end up with a large number of clips, but it can even be handy when you have just a few. Reopen the **Clip Board** and click **Preview** in the left-hand pane. The Board will display only clips that were copied to *Clips* in *Preview*.



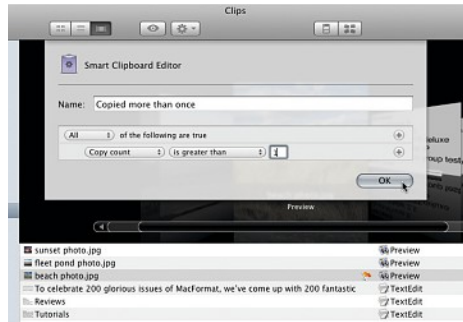
02 Still in the Board, select **My Clips**, which, like the *iTunes* library, displays all of your clips. Now slowly type 'sun', one letter at a time. In a manner similar to Spotlight, your items will be filtered via your incremental search, leaving you with those matching your search string. Hit [Backspace] a few times to clear the string.



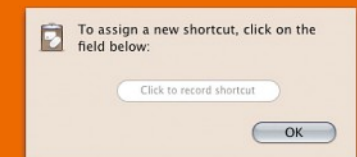
03 Press [esc] to exit the **Board** and then [Ctrl]+⌘+[Spacebar] to open the **Organizer**. We'll now run through how to organise your clips. First, select one of the image clips and click the **eye** icon – this brings up the **Clip Inspector**, offering information about the clip. Close the **Inspector**, hit [Backspace] and your selected clip is deleted.



04 To ensure a clip doesn't vanish from the temporary clips history, toggle its flag value in the **Organizer** by selecting it and choosing **Toggle Flag** from the **Action** button's menu. The clip will now appear in the **Flagged Clips** sections throughout *Clips*. (On the **Board**, click the **flag** at the bottom-left of a clip to toggle its flag status.)



05 Custom clipboards can be created to store favourite clips. Click the menu at the bottom-left of the **Organizer** and select **New Clipboard** or **New Smart Clipboard**. These are analogous to *iTunes*' playlists and smart playlists – clips are dragged to them or clips appear based on user-defined criteria. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

Select a clip and choose **Assign Shortcut** from the **Organizer's** **Action** button menu. Define a shortcut and click **OK**. Voila – a shortcut for your clip!

EXPERT TIP

If you feel restricted by the default 15 clips you can raise them to 50 in the **General preferences (Number of Temporary Clips)**.



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Everything you need for...

Christmas

Words Cliff Joseph Illustration Linzie Hunter

Whether you're looking for a gift for a friend or partner, there's something here for every Apple fan

Anyone who owns a Mac or iPod would be thrilled to get a cool accessory for their Apple kit in their stocking this Christmas. We have a great collection of all the best gadgets and add-ons for all budgets, from a bargain £1.25 to a more extravagant £469.



Everything you need for... mac



Apple iWork '08



Price £55
Developer Apple
Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

Many people still prefer to go the whole hog and buy Microsoft *Office 2008* for their Mac, but for most of us Apple's own *iWork* suite of office applications will do the trick. The *iWork* suite includes three powerful programs: *Pages* for word processing and page layout work; *Keynote* with its powerful graphics and animation tools for creating impressive presentations; and *Numbers*, which has to be the most eye-catching spreadsheet we've ever seen. *iWork* will only set you back £55, whereas the *Home and Student Edition of Office* is almost double that at £107.

Seagate FreeAgent Go



Price 250GB, £95; 320GB, £111
Manufacturer Seagate
Vendor www.dabs.com

The FreeAgent Go is such a good idea that we're surprised nobody thought of it sooner. It's a compact and lightweight portable hard disk that comes with a desktop dock unit so that you can use it with laptop or desktop Macs with equal ease. The dock requires a FireWire 800 interface, but if your Mac doesn't have one you can opt for the desktop version of the drive, called the FreeAgent Desk, which works with both FireWire 400 and 800.

Samsung VP-HMX20C



Price £469
Manufacturer Samsung
Vendor www.amazon.co.uk

We've seen smaller and less expensive camcorders than this one, but they always tend to compromise on quality and built-in storage. Samsung's VP-HMX20C, on the other hand, gets everything right. Its lightweight design makes it easy to carry around, yet it captures high-quality video using 'Full HD' resolution of 1,920x1,080i. It also has a 10x optical zoom and an impressive 8GB of internal memory that can store about 90 minutes of high-definition video – all for less than £500.



Apple Time Capsule



Price 500GB, £199; 1TB, £329
Manufacturer Apple
Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

Time Capsule has been one of the top-selling Mac accessories since its launch in January 2008. It combines an 802.11n wireless router with a big fat hard disk that lets you – and anyone else on your home or office network – wirelessly back up all important files and data. It's a little pricey, but the way that it works seamlessly with Apple's *Time Machine* makes it ideal for any home or office with multiple Macs.



Apple AirPort Express



Price £65
Manufacturer Apple
Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

The AirPort Express has always been one of Apple's unsung heroes, and it's even better now that the latest version supports high-speed 802.11n wireless networking. As well as acting as a miniature – and very affordable – wireless router, the AirPort Express also has an audio connector that enables you to hook it up to a set of speakers so that you can beam your *iTunes* music from your Mac to any room in your home.





Ferguson Hill FH007 Mini Speaker System



Price £400

Manufacturer Ferguson Hill

Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

Ferguson Hill's FH007 speakers have the stylish looks to complement your Mac – and they sound even better than they look. The system consists of two stereo satellites with Ferguson's distinctive 'horn' design, which produce a really clear, sharp sound, along with two additional bass speakers that add plenty of weight to the lower frequencies. They're not exactly cheap, but the superb sound is worth every penny. And it's their amazing performance that won them the prestigious MacFormat Choice Award in the desktop speakers Group Test back in issue 200.

Spore



Price £40

Developer Electronic Arts

Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

Spore is one of the biggest games of the year on any platform, and certainly the big Mac game for this Christmas. Designed by Will Wright – who was responsible for *The Sims* – *Spore* allows you to design your own 'personal universe', starting with simple microscopic lifeforms and guiding them all the way to universal conquest. Mac owners can also download a free *Spore* widget to share their creations with other players.



Canon Pixma iP4500



Price £80

Manufacturer Canon

Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

There's an increasing trend towards multifunction printers these days (see our Group Test on p104), but if you just want a straightforward printer that provides good quality at a competitive price, Canon's iP4500 is a great choice. Its 9,600x2,400dpi resolution produces both finely detailed text and vibrant photographic prints. There's an economical double-sided printing option, and it's fast, too, turning out a 4x6-inch photo print in 20 seconds.



Sony DSC-T500



Price £300

Manufacturer Sony

Vendor www.sonymstyle-europe.com

Sony's latest Cyber-shot combines a compact design with a high specification and attractive price tag. The T500 is slim and light enough to slip into your pocket, but has a resolution of 10 megapixels, along with powerful 5x zoom. It can even shoot high-def video, and includes a 4GB memory stick that can store one hour of video in iPod-compatible MP4 format.



Elgato EyeTV Diversity



Price £80

Manufacturer Elgato

Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

Elgato makes several TV tuners for the Mac, but the EyeTV Diversity is the most versatile. It includes two TV tuners which allow you to watch two programs at once or, more usefully, watch one program and record another. It's a digital tuner so you need to live in an area with good digital reception, but Elgato also makes a Hybrid model that can pick analogue TV signals in areas with poor digital reception.

STOCKING FILLERS



Apple Keyboard

Wired, £29; wireless, £49 www.apple.com/uk

Some might prefer a larger keyboard with a few more bells and buttons, but Apple's latest design is certainly an eye-catching companion for your Mac. The low-rise keys are also comfortable when you're typing. The wired version is designed for desktop use, while the wireless version is smaller and lacks the numeric keypad, so you can balance it on your lap.

Huzzk Sleeve

£29 www.huzzk.com

MacBook sales are going through the roof at the moment, so we reckon MacBook owners will want a nice protective carrying case for their laptops. The Huzzk Sleeve cases are tough and strong, and available in a variety of styles to suit different tastes, ranging from the tasteful floral pattern of the Hana Sleeve, through to the rugged tire-tread rubber of the Sleeve GT.

Freecom Databar 16GB

£24 www.freecom.com

Flash memory sticks are always handy for transferring files, or simply for keeping an extra emergency backup. Freecom's Databars are amongst the cheapest sticks available, and this 16GB model will store our entire iTunes library for less than £25. There are also 4GB and 8GB models, costing £6 and £14 respectively.

Belkin Cushtop

£13 www.belkin.com/uk

The Cushtop looks a bit cumbersome, but it's actually really comfortable. It sits on your lap and provides a nice comfy base for your laptop so you can sit and type on the sofa or even on the bed. It also protects your naughty bits so they don't get frazzled by the heat from the battery.

Apple Wireless N Enabler

£1.25 www.apple.com/uk

This has to be one of the cheapest and best upgrades. If you've got a Mac with a Core 2 Duo processor (excluding the 17-inch 1.83GHz iMac) that originally shipped with an 802.11g AirPort wireless card, you can upgrade it to the faster 802.11n version by downloading this software enabler for just £1.25. Owners of older Macs will need to look at alternatives, such as the Edimax nMax USB adaptor (www.edimax.com).

Everything you need for...

iPod



iSkin Cerulean TX + RX



Price £83

Manufacturer iSkin

Vendor www.amazon.co.uk

The Cerulean TX + RX consists of a little Bluetooth transmitter (the TX bit) that plugs into the dock connector on the base of your iPod. This transmits your iPod's music to the RX receiver, which can be connected to the audio input on a set of speakers, turning your iPod into a wireless music system that you can carry around the house with you. It can also be used to stream music from your Mac to your speakers, too.

Altec Lansing inMotion iM600



Price £101

Manufacturer Altec Lansing

Vendor www.dabs.com

We never travel anywhere without packing our trusty old inMotion 3 speakers, and the latest version is just as attractive. The iM600 folds flat for easy packing, but produces excellent sound quality and more volume than you might expect from such a slim set of speakers. There's an FM radio and alarm clock built in, along with a rechargeable battery and remote.



Nike + iPod Sport Kit



Price £19

Manufacturer Nike

Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

The Nike + iPod Sport Kit is a must-have gift for anyone who's serious about their running. It consists of a tiny little sensor that you slip into a special compartment in the sole of Nike's Air Zoom trainers, along with a receiver that connects to the dock on the base of the iPod. The sensor measures your pace and distance while you're running, and transmits the data to your iPod so that you can monitor your progress during training sessions. Look out for our investigation next issue (on sale 10 December), which sees us testing the kit for a whole month, while getting fitter!



Gear4 LeatherJacket



Price From £9

Manufacturer Gear4

Vendor www.gear4store.com

We see dozens of iPod cases every month, but we can't help getting a bit touchy-feely with Gear4's plush LeatherJacket. Available for all iPod models, as well as the iPhone, the LeatherJacket folds open to reveal your iPod cradled in a silky smooth leather interior that includes a special plastic cover to protect the screen. It's also very reasonably priced, given the quality of the materials used to construct the case.



Elgato Turbo.264



Price £70
Manufacturer Elgato
Vendor www.elgato.com

The Turbo.264 from Elgato is really handy if you watch a lot of video on your iPod or iPhone. Video files that you download onto your iPod first need to be converted into the compressed H.264 video format. This can take a long time – even with a powerful Mac – so the Turbo.264 includes a special video processor that dramatically speeds up the conversion process and leaves your Mac's main processor free so that you can carry on doing other things at the same time.

Harman Kardon Go+Play



Price £230
Manufacturer Harman Kardon
Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

Sometimes you need a bigger sound than you'll get from portable speakers, and Harman Kardon's Go+Play speakers produce the mightiest sound we've ever heard from a set of iPod speakers. This stylish silver and black unit packs two 'tweeters' and two 'woofers' to produce a roof-rattling 120W of sound. Even more importantly, the sound quality is great – clear and sharp with plenty of bass for party time.



Gear4 CarDock FM Follow Me



Price £50
Manufacturer Gear4
Vendor www.gear4store.com

It's a little pricey but Gear4's CarDock is one of the best in-car FM transmitters we've seen so far. As you travel from one area to another, the CarDock can automatically scan for the five clearest radio frequencies in that area and store them as presets so you can always play your iPod music through the car radio. If your radio uses RDS (radio data system) it can also display track information on the screen.



Sennheiser CX300



Price £35
Manufacturer Sennheiser
Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

The earbuds that Apple sells with the iPod may be instantly recognisable but their audio quality leaves room for improvement. Apple has acknowledged that by coming up with its own 'upgrade' earphones, but we're loyal Sennheiser fans and we like its CX300 earphones. They're comfortable, good at blocking out background noise, and produce a nice sound, with plenty of bass.



Belkin Sports Armband Plus



Price £25
Manufacturer Belkin
Vendor www.dabs.com

There are quite a few sports armbands available for the iPod – including Apple's own little velcro number. However, we like Belkin's latest model, the Sports Armband Plus. This can be worn on your arm when you're out running or pumping iron at the gym, but it also includes a little clip that lets you attach it to your belt like an ordinary iPod case at all other times.



STOCKING FILLERS



Belkin RockStar

£4 www.belkin.co.uk

The points of this star-shaped device are actually audio connectors, which allow you to connect one iPod to five sets of earphones so you can listen to your music with your friends. You can also connect two iPods together and use the volume controls on the iPods to mix songs.

Proporta Echo Case

£17 www.proporta.com

The Echo case is a practical protective case with a twist. The super-shiny case protects the iPod screen when it's in use, but when the screen backlight is off the screen cover turns into a mirror. The case is only available for iPod nano, but Proporta also sells Echo screen overlays for larger iPods.

iTunes Music Card

£15/£25 <http://store.apple.com/uk>

There's a lot more on the iTunes Store than just music these days. An iTunes Music Card is a great gift that will let your friends download to their heart's content. If you're looking for a quick last-minute present you can also order gift cards through the iTunes Store and print them yourself, or email them to someone for instant delivery.

Apple iPod Radio Remote

£35 <http://store.apple.com/uk>

It's getting a bit old, but we still like our little iPod Radio Remote, and it still works with all iPod models apart from the iPod touch. The Radio Remote is a tiny device – smaller than an iPod shuffle – that has a built-in FM radio tuner. Just plug it into the iPod's dock connector and a new Radio option appears on the iPod's menu screen. It also acts as a remote control for the iPod and includes a spare set of earphones.

Belkin Screen Overlays 3-Pack

£8 www.belkin.co.uk

The iPod's Achilles heel has always been the screen, seemingly vulnerable to scratches if you so much as sneeze near it. It's also surprising how many so-called 'protective' cases don't provide a cover for the screen. So we recommend these screen overlays to protect the screen from getting scratched. There are a number of companies that make these overlays, but Belkin's three-pack is good value.

Everything you need for... iPhone



Griffin Clarifi

Price £25
Manufacturer Griffin
Vendor www.carphonewarehouse.com

The Clarifi is another ingenious idea from Griffin. It looks like a fairly ordinary case, with Griffin's trademark EasyDock feature that enables you to slide the lower section of the case off so that you can insert the iPhone into a docking unit. However, on the back of the case there's a little macro lens that slides over the iPhone's own camera lens, improving the image quality and allowing the iPhone to take close-up photos of items such as business cards. See our review on p84.

Logitech Pure-Fi Anywhere

Price £100
Manufacturer Logitech
Vendor <http://store.apple.com/uk>

There's always a compromise with portable speakers. Reducing the size of the speakers generally means reducing the volume and the sound quality, too. However, Logitech's Pure-Fi Anywhere speaker/dock system strikes a good balance between portability and sound quality. It's still small enough to slip into a backpack or suitcase, but produces a nice clear sound with plenty of volume and decent bass, too.

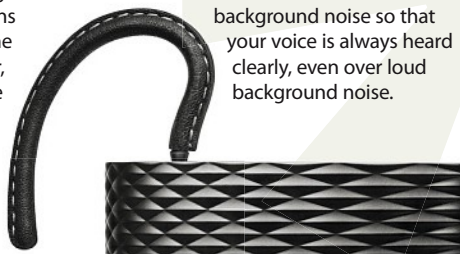


Aliph Jawbone

Price £80
Manufacturer Aliph, www.aliph.com
Vendor www.carphonewarehouse.com

Bluetooth headsets are ten-a-penny these days, but the Jawbone is one of the most stylish Bluetooth headsets we've seen – even the earpiece is finished off with tasteful leather trim. The technology inside it is pretty clever, too, as the Jawbone uses twin microphones and a special sound-processing algorithm called

NoiseAssassin to reduce background noise so that your voice is always heard clearly, even over loud background noise.



Griffin AirCurve

Price £20
Manufacturer Griffin
Vendor www.carphonewarehouse.com

The AirCurve is an ingenious little device. It's a shiny, translucent stand for the iPhone that has a 'coiled wave' built into the base. This acts as a kind of acoustic amplifier that improves the sound from the iPhone's tinny little built-in speaker, enabling you to take calls on the iPhone while it sits conveniently on your desk. There's also a slot in the AirCurve that leaves room for the sync cable, too. Another winner from Griffin, and at a great price! ●

Apple Remote App

Price £FREE
Developer Apple
Vendor www.apple.com/uk/itunes/remote

This should be downloaded by anyone that owns an iPod touch or iPhone. The Remote software turns the iPod/iPhone into a remote control that you can use to play music and videos on your Mac or Apple TV. It's a two-way link, too, so you can browse your album artwork on the iPod screen, or create and edit playlists all from the comfort of your sofa.

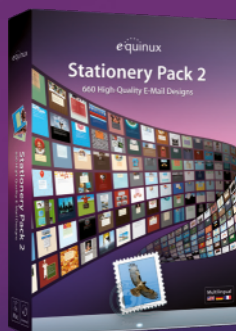


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Stationery Pack 2

Stationery Pack 2 contains over 660 e-mail designs, that can be generated from a total of 122 templates with a simple mouse click. Change the colors, background and themes of many templates, use your own photos and write as much as you want in the dynamic text boxes. Now for every occasion you'll have the perfect e-mail with a personal touch.

Available at www.equinox.com or at Apple retailers.

Q&A



Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
mfhelpline@futurenet.co.uk

This month, Luis Villazon calms burning CD issues, plays down movie fears and dissolves salt worries

QUICK TIP

Enter Sleep mode

A quick press of the power button on your Mac will put it into Sleep mode. This leaves all of your applications open (and unsaved), but it saves power and you can resume almost instantly by hitting any key.

TOO MUCH SALT IS BAD FOR A MACBOOK

Q I was interested to read the letter from Nick Ford in *MacFormat* issue 200, and his question about the state of the memory modules he'd removed from a MacBook.

I too experienced the same 'raised eyebrows' when upgrading my MacBook, also bought last year. At the time of my upgrade the machine was only a few months old and it certainly never went anywhere near the sea, simply from home to office. I assumed that being an Apple with high standards of build quality it was some form of heat compound. I'd never experienced any system crashes or lockups and since the upgrade all still remains stable. If this is a salt deposit then perhaps a batch of Mac stock fell off a container ship and floated into port...

Darren Woollard



Note the uniform spread of the white deposit on the connecting edge of the lower chip board.

A You can sometimes get salt deposits around electrical terminals – particularly in high humidity environments. But the voltages on RAM edge connectors aren't really high enough for this and in any case the gold fingers aren't normally exposed to the air,

except perhaps at the bottom end. The white stuff on your RAM is uniformly spread over the entire connecting edge – conducting and non-conducting surfaces alike. For this reason I'm convinced it's just the non-conductive lithium grease that's sometimes used during

manufacture to make it easier to insert the modules. Quite normal and perfectly safe.

ATTACHMENTS FOR WINDOWS USERS

Q I have had a Mac for a couple of years and I love them, but there's one thing that I can't resolve. When I'm sending emails with PDF or JPEG attachments to Windows users, they don't always get them, although they are plainly visible in my message. I did download a plug-in for *Mail* that makes the attachment an icon, but still some people can't receive my attachments. I've seen nothing discussed about it.

Nick Henley-Welch

A Most likely, you do not have Windows-friendly attachments enabled. Click Edit > Attachments in *Mail* and make sure that **Always**

Q&A EXTRA | Essential disc burning advice from MacWarehouse

BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

It used to be the case that if you wanted to burn CDs or DVDs from *Finder* or any of Apple's apps, you were restricted to either using the drive that came installed in your Mac or swapping it out for another internal drive that was the same as a model that Apple ships. Support for those drives was only added by system updates and there was nothing from Apple to tell you what worked and what didn't. I remember cheering the arrival of Mac OS X 10.3.3 as it enabled me to install a Pioneer DVR-107 in my Power Mac G4 without having to use some of the system hacks that I needed previously.

A really good resource to find out what works and what doesn't is the Drive Compatibility

Database at XLR8yourmac.com (<http://forums.xlr8yourmac.com/drivedb/search.drivedb.lasso>) where you'll find reader submissions of their experiences.

Since then things have got a lot easier. If you want *Finder* and app support for an upgraded internal drive on either Jaguar, Panther or Tiger then your first port of call should be *Patchburn* (www.patchburn.de). For Leopard things are much easier, as the OS now supports non-Apple supplied drives natively, even external drives.

However *Finder* and Apple apps are not the be all and end all of disk burning. For a start, you may want to be able to reproduce



multiple copies of a disk, have control over the layout, keep track of what data you've burned to disc, backup files that won't fit on a single disc or even write Blu-ray discs. For all those reasons and many more, you may want to consider buying some commercial software such as *Disco* (www.discoapp.com) or *Roxio's Toast* (<http://www.roxio.com/eng/products/toast/titanium/overview.html>).

Disco uses Apple's CD and DVD drivers, whereas *Toast* has its own, which is why it can support Blu-ray on the Mac. However, you do need to buy an additional plug-in for this. *Toast* also adds a

Send Windows-Friendly Attachments is ticked. If you have already done this, the problem may lie at the other end. Perhaps your Windows users have ISPs that reject attachments over a certain file size. Or perhaps they're using obscure webmail services and don't know how to access attachments properly.

CAN'T IMPORT AVI FILES TO A MAC

Q I'm a long-time PC user. My hobby is making DVDs of home videos. I was informed that the Mac was used by professionals to produce movies and so I subscribed for the last few years to *MacFormat* – an excellent magazine. I visited Apple's Regent Street store and found the staff very helpful and they assured me that I could transfer the Windows AVI files to the Mac video programs. Based on this information, I purchased an iMac with the intention of transferring AVI files composed in the PC to the iMac. This hasn't worked.

QuickTime will only play the audio of my AVI video files. I have phoned support four times and each time they assured me that a suggested download would solve the problem. I've tried *WM Components*, *Perian*, *Windows Media Player* and the A52 codec. I've also installed all the other components and still my iMac doesn't play AVI video.



If *Software Update* hangs, try updating manually using update packages from the Apple website.

I need to use these files in *Final Cut Express 4*.
Martin Michell

A *Final Cut* will import some AVI files; it very much depends on the codec that was used to create the AVI in the first place. To get around the troublesome encoding formats, you need to export the AVI files to *QuickTime* MOV format. That's what *Perian* is for. *Flip4Mac* (www.flip4mac.com) will also do this. Once the files are in MOV format, you should find they load correctly into *Final Cut Express*.

FROZEN MAC WHEN UPGRADING LEOPARD

Q I bought my black MacBook a month back and recently tried to upgrade to OS X 10.5.5. I installed it, but now when the computer restarts it just doesn't move ahead. I left it for half an hour yesterday but the progress bar was stuck at 5% and it

said "configuring installation". Generally the updates move a lot faster. Should I wait longer? What should I do?
Harsh Bengali

A Well, if you're still stuck on 5% by the time you read this, then your Mac has definitely crashed. There are enough reports on the forums of similar lockups for me to conclude that it isn't an isolated problem, but unfortunately not enough for me to suggest a fix yet. Repairing file permissions before you run an OS update is always a good idea. Some people will tell you that you should download the combo update (www.apple.com/support/downloads/macosx1055comboupdate.html) rather than just letting *Software Update* download the incremental update. But I've never seen a convincing justification for this. Bad memory can sometimes cause this sort of lockup and it has

been blamed by some for this situation. In an isolated case, I might be inclined to agree but it doesn't really stack up in the face of so many separate instances. While I definitely wouldn't advise this for everyone, in your case I would stick with 10.5.4 for now; by the time you read this, there may well be a 10.5.5.1 or even a 10.5.6 that addresses this issue adequately.

MY CDS WON'T BURN IN iTunes

Q For the last week or so, when I burn CDs in *iTunes* on my Power Mac G5, they don't work. Some CDs will work but even then not every track will play. I was wondering, is it possible to set up CD or DVD sharing on my MacBook so that I can use its disc drive to burn CDs from playlists in *iTunes* on my Power Mac, and if so, how is this done? I can't find any information about CD/DVD sharing in the Mac Help or on the internet.
David Broaders

A You don't specify whether your CD won't even play on your G5 or just on audio CD players. The latter are definitely more fussy than CD-ROM or SuperDrives. There probably isn't a single person that has never had CD burn failures at one point or

QUICK TIP

Instant shut down

Pressing and holding the power button will force your Mac to do a full and instant shut down. You'll lose any unsaved work but it can be a useful way to recover from a crash that prevents you from even force-quitting. Press the power button again to restart the Mac.

QUICK TIP

Add apps to the Dock

Right-click the icon of an application in the Dock and choose **Keep in Dock** from the context menu. This will add this application to the list of icons that are permanently available on the Dock. This is often easier than dragging an icon to the Dock from the Applications folder.

Burning a CD to a networked drive isn't a good idea.

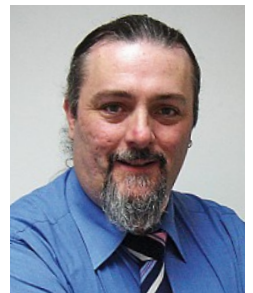


whole range of tools for things like digitising LPs and cassettes, as well as converting video to different formats for use on a number of different devices. Finally, *Toast* bundles a range of DVD themes and even enables you to stream video over your local network, but it's a good bit more expensive than *Disco*.

However you choose to burn your discs, there are a few things to bear in mind. If you're just backing files up then it doesn't really matter what you store on CD or DVD, as to the Mac it's all just data. But if you plan on doing something else with it, a disc needs to be formatted correctly for the system that is going to use it. If you want to make a backup of an *iPhoto* album to send to your Gran, it's fine if she uses the same or a



better version of *iPhoto*. But if she has an older Mac, a PC or maybe just wants to be able to pop the disc in her DVD player to watch on the TV, you'll be out of luck if you simply burned the disc from within *iPhoto*. The problem is that it doesn't write standard JPEG files to the disc, but instead writes an *iPhoto* library. Helpfully, Apple has a document on how to write your photos to disc (<http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1099>) and this trick should also work in many DVD players where you can simply browse the disc. However, if you want to create something to be played on a DVD player then you may be better off creating something in *iDVD* or *Toast* where you'll have total control over how the slideshow looks and what music goes with it.



Bill Gallop is Technical Manager of MacWarehouse
www.macwarehouse.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Organise icons

You can rearrange the icons on the right-hand side of your desktop menu bar by holding down **⌘** and dragging them to the order you prefer. Dragging them off the menu bar removes them altogether.

Disc burning errors may be due to the CD-R brand you use rather than the drive.



another. Sometimes this is caused by a dirty lens in the CD burner (or player) and can be fixed with a CD lens cleaning kit, available from music stores. Occasionally, there may be driver or memory issues or even a hardware fault with the drive itself. But most often it's just a question of the particular brand or batch of CD-R discs you're using. Before you start looking for any solution more complicated than that, always try burning to a different brand of blank disc.

Burning to a drive over a network share isn't a good idea because of the inherent unreliability of streaming large



Check the Character Palette in the International preference pane to make adjustments to your keyboard layout.

amounts of data across a LAN without any interruption.

STIRLING ADVICE FOR A GERMAN KEYBOARD

Q I'm using a German keyboard for administrative reasons, but I find it takes a lot of extra time to go to Edit > Special Characters, pick out the pound sign, then choose Insert for my monetary workings. On the PC there was a shortcut for this sign, Alt+[3] – can you tell me if there's a similar shortcut on the Mac?

Stuart Cowie

A There are a couple of ways to do this. The first is to open the International preferences pane and tick the Character Palette box on the Input Menu tab. This will let you right-click the flag icon on the menu bar and click Show Character Palette. From there you can easily access the pound sign, as well as lots of other more or less useful symbols. For a slightly more streamlined interface, at the expense of having fewer symbols available, try the CharacterPal widget from <http://tacowidgets.com>.

G4 REFUSES TO GO TO SLEEP

Q I wonder if you can work your magic, as there's been zero response from the Apple Discussion forums.

I have a G4 running OS X 10.5.4. Recently, it has been hanging when I've started using it again after the screensaver has kicked in. It's not a question of awakening from sleep, as it never allows me to put it to sleep (but that's an ongoing issue and one never resolved). All I get is the beach ball of death and never the login screen. The only solution is to power off. I've attached the panic log.

Roger Sinden

A This could signal a faulty hard drive controller (or driver) but I wouldn't attach much significance to the panic log. I prefer to troubleshoot faults from first principles. Disconnecting external drives is a good first step. Then try removing each RAM module in turn. Also unplug expansion cards from the motherboard. And even the processor, if you're not entirely ham-fisted. Although you can live with a Mac that won't enter sleep, you can't ignore the symptom

because it suggests there may be an underlying problem with the motherboard.

THE MOUSE MAT IS THE PROBLEM

Q Regarding the problem Stefan Fabiansson had in MacFormat issue 200 with the jumping mouse – you say it's not the mouse mat. I'd say it is very likely to be the mouse mat.

I had the same problem with my iMac. I was using one of my old company mouse mats with a very contrasting blue and yellow pattern, and the mouse pointer was frequently jumping across the screen for no apparent reason. I changed to a plain mouse mat and have had no problems since.

Colin Campbell

A I suppose if you were unlucky enough to have a mouse mat with a very uniform, high-contrast stripe pattern with the right spacing, it might fool the mouse. Occasionally, with the sensitivity turned right up, I have seen my mouse pointer creep slowly across the screen on my woodgrain table. But that's not what Stefan was

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

STREAMING PROBLEMS WITH iTunes 8.0.1

Upon installing the iTunes 8.0.1 update, some users are experiencing problems streaming both audio and video from various sources.

Apple Discussions poster VistaClara writes: "I installed iTunes 8.01 and now I can't stream any movies to my Apple TV. It worked fine before, but now, after I select a movie, the gear just keeps spinning and nothing streams."

Likewise, others have reported issues with the ability to connect to the iTunes Store and connecting to streams in iTunes's Radio section. When Apple initially released iTunes 8 along with the QuickTime 7.5.5 update, some users were also experiencing problems with streaming media. Since most of these reports have to do

more with the QuickTime update than iTunes, it's possible that bugs in the latest version of QuickTime are affecting iTunes 8.0.1.

It's recommended that users first try resetting preference files for QuickTime and iTunes. To do this, go to the User > Library > Preferences folder and remove the com.apple.iTunes.plist file. Then go to the Macintosh HD > Library > Preferences folder and remove the com.apple.QuickTime.plist file as well. Then restart the computer, open System Preferences and set the QuickTime streaming rate to the highest level.

Alternatively, try downloading the standalone updater for the latest QuickTime update (<http://tinyurl.com/5wekht>) and then



reboot the machine into Safe Mode by holding **⇧** at bootup. When in Safe mode, run a permissions fix on the hard drive using Disk Utility and then apply the update, restarting upon completion. Users might try this in conjunction with removing the QuickTime and iTunes preference files.

iTunes 8: UNKNOWN ERRORS ON SYNC

Some users have run into problems where error messages appear when they sync their iPods with iTunes after applying the 8.0.1 update. Apple Discussions poster MgShaw writes: "I installed [iTunes 8.0.1] tonight when I got home, and I'm now getting 'unknown errors' when syncing with the iPod. It gives a 'could not sync –

SHUTDOWN FAIL | My iMac won't stay asleep

Q A few weeks ago I heard my 20-inch aluminium iMac say the time (as it is set to do on the hour when being used) even though I had put it to sleep. I also noticed, as it was in a dark room, that the screen was not completely black. This only happened occasionally at first, but then became more frequent. Now it's a regular occurrence, but the screen remains completely black. I've tried turning *Time Machine* off before putting the iMac to sleep but it still happens. Also, even if I shut it down, it turns itself on at some point and I find it on the 'log in' screen waiting for my password! I don't have it set to start or wake up in *System Preferences*.

David Rotheram

A It seems as if something is using the hard disk which is preventing the iMac from sleeping, even though it's able to time-out the screen. By itself, that would be quite mysterious, but we have an extra clue from the fact that your iMac is also starting itself up in the night from a complete shut down. There are a few things that can do this but probably the most common is the remote scheduling feature built-in to EyeTV. You can disable this from the EyeTV preferences pane.

If that doesn't help, or you don't even have EyeTV, check in Library > Preferences > systemconfiguration > com.apple.AutoWake.plist for other processes that might be waking the iMac. Or just delete the plist file altogether if you want a

sledgehammer-nut solution. My suspicion is that whatever is waking your iMac up from soft-off is also responsible for preventing it from sleeping. After you've changed the preferences or deleted the plist file, you might also need to reset the PMU and PRAM to remove any settings lingering there. You can find instructions on exactly how to do this at <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1379>.

Hyperactive iMac won't go to sleep? Check its AutoWake settings for likely culprits.



describing. He had a mouse cursor that jumped erratically around the screen. I reckon that the mouse mat being the cause of this is very unlikely.

But in the end, the simplest test is to try the mouse without any mat at all. I repeat: one of the main advantages of an optical mouse is that you don't need a mouse mat.

MACS AND PCS IN HARMONY

Q I tried the procedure listed in *MacFormat* issue 199 in reference to controlling a PC from your Mac on page 56. It sounded too good to be true. I'm a very experienced Windows user and was given a Mac, and have been trying to

switch to it 100% of the time, but it's just not compatible yet with my setup, and I didn't really want to spend any more money trying to get them to communicate.

My PC is running Windows XP Home – so the remote desktop function will not work with the Mac. I have an 800MHz PowerPC G4 running OS X version 10.4.11. The only way I can get them to communicate is to use the software from www.gotomypc.com. This enables me to use all the software on my PC via the internet – it has no problem with Macs or PCs. This might be worth mentioning to people who don't have Windows XP Professional or the servers

required. It's also very simple to set up and great for people who have a PC at the office but a Mac at home.

Just thought you might like to know.

Colin D Till

A Thanks Colin, glad to hear it.

LOOSE MACBOOK BATTERY TERMINALS

Q My dad has a problem with his MacBook (1.8GHz, white). He's had it for about three years, and prior to this had no problems. Now his MacBook shuts down and restarts on its own accord if you move it slightly. We have tried the resetting method (battery and AC out,

and holding down the power for ten seconds). I've done a lot of research and found some updates, but the problem is still there and seemingly getting worse.

James Davies

A Do you mean that a slight jog is enough to cause the MacBook to reboot itself? That strongly suggests a loose connection to me; possibly something as simple as a loose battery connector, but it could also be an expansion card or memory module that's loose or has a corroded edge connector. It's even possible that this is caused by a dry solder joint on the motherboard. On a desktop Mac, it might be

QUICK TIP

Changing views in iCal

iCal lets you switch quickly between day, week and month views by pressing $\text{⌘}+[1]$, $\text{⌘}+[2]$ or $\text{⌘}+[3]$, respectively.

unknown error 13014' – I can't find anything that tells me what that error means."

Despite the error messages popping up, it appears *iTunes* is syncing information properly, which has been confusing to affected users. This problem seems to be associated with *iTunes* not initialising properly on first start, so it's recommended users follow these procedures to ensure the system and *iTunes* work together.

THE FIX

- Quit *iTunes* and shut down the computer.
- Unplug peripheral devices, including iPods.
- Boot the computer and log in to user account.
- When the computer fully loads, launch *iTunes*.
- Connect iPods and re-attempt synchronisation.

In addition to running the computer through a full restart cycle such as this, users are encouraged to run permissions fixes on the hard drive using *Disk Utility* after applying updates. While for the most part the files checked by permissions fixes are not associated with *iTunes*, it's possible that small conflicts with inaccessible system files may result in odd application behaviour. Lastly, users might try removing their *iTunes* preferences file (located in the User > Library > Preferences folder and called [com.apple.iTunes.plist](#)) and re-launching *iTunes*.

iCHAT: VIDEO HALTING, CONNECTION ISSUES

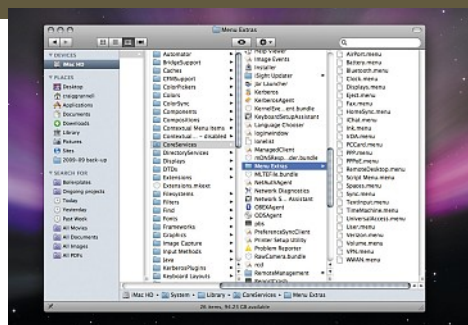
In some cases, when users start a video chat, after a short while the program will freeze and

sometimes require a force-quit to get things back up and running. Previously, MacFixIt recommended that users re-apply the recent *QuickTime* updates as well as the Mac OS X 10.5.5 update, but according to more recent posts both here at MacFixIt, as well as on the Apple discussion boards, some users have found that this problem could be due to faulty *QuickTime* preference files.

As such, in addition to the previous suggestions, it's recommended that users remove the file named [com.apple.QuickTime.plist](#) from their User > Library >



STEP BY STEP Add an eject menu bar extra to Mac OS X



01 Menu bar extras are great, such as the depicted displays extra, which provides system-wide and speedy access to monitor resolution settings. However, Apple has 'hidden' some menu bar extras, and one can be handy for people using a Mac (such as a Mac mini) with an old keyboard that lacks an [Eject] key.

02 From the root of your hard drive, navigate to System > Library > CoreServices > Menu Extras. Within this folder, you'll find a bunch of familiar menu extras, along with several that aren't enabled by default. Double-click on **Eject.menu**, and you'll see an eject icon appear in your menu bar.

03 Click the icon and select its sole menu item to eject a disk. If you no longer want the menu bar extra in your menu bar, just ⌘-drag it off. (Note that if you've multiple optical drives installed, this icon should appear by default, to provide you with the choice of which drive to eject.)

QUICK TIP

Merge addresses

If you have two very similar entries in your *Address Book*, you can merge them together simply by selecting both of them and pressing ⌘ and [J] together.

worth poking around inside to narrow down the cause a bit. But on a laptop, this almost certainly warrants a trip to your nearest authorised Apple service centre.

MIC DOESN'T WORK ON iBOOK

Q My parents offered me an iBook G4 two months ago from eBay, as I needed a laptop, and preferably not one running Windows (we hate Microsoft in our family). I'm now very satisfied with it. However, I've found that the internal microphone doesn't seem to work. If I go to System Preferences > Speech, and choose to calibrate the internal microphone, the meter doesn't move even when I talk next to the

microphone. However, it does change when I move the slider or when I shake the screen a bit, which I know I shouldn't be doing. I was thinking of using the microphone while playing *X-Plane V8*, using the speech software called *TeamSpeak*. I'm running OS X 10.5.4.

Julien Segers

A I think you have a simple broken wire or loose connector for the microphone. Normally it isn't picking anything up but when you shake the laptop, you're causing the connectors to rub against each other, creating static crackle that shows up as activity on the audio meter. If you're confident, you can try removing the screen bezel to

see if you can locate the loose connection and resolder it. There are step-by-step guides available online that will show you how to open the case. If that sounds like it would be out of your depth, the simplest work-around is to add an external microphone via a Griffin iMic in a USB port (www.griffintechology.com/products/imic).

PARALLELS ON AN EXTERNAL DISK?

Q I'm considering buying a MacBook Pro on which I will want to run Windows. I still have a PC laptop, but I eventually want to get rid of that and use the MacBook for the Windows programs that I still want to use. However, I don't really want to install

Windows XP on the MacBook hard drive, so could I purchase a large capacity external drive that is network capable, set it up as a networked drive and install XP on that, and then run *Parallels Desktop* from the external hard drive? I realise I wouldn't be able to run *Boot Camp* this way as it involves booting the MacBook into Windows, whereas *Parallels Desktop* enables both operating systems to run together on the same machine. Is this setup technically possible?

Keith Gibbins

A It can't be done the way you describe, I'm afraid. You have to install *Parallels* on the boot drive. If you're

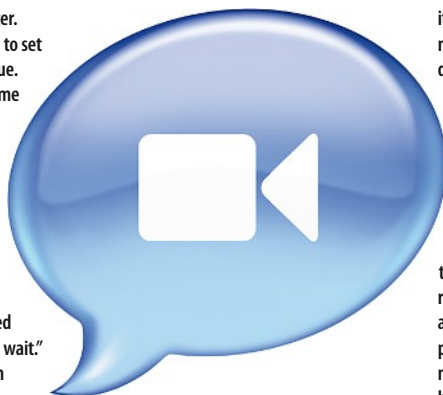
Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

Preferences folder, and restart the computer. Then in the *QuickTime* preferences, be sure to set the streaming data rate to the highest value.

In addition to the freezing problem, some users are having troubles with *iChat* not properly connecting to the *iChat* server.

Apple Discussions poster Peter Andreev writes: "I'm using AIM through *iChat*. When I try to connect, I get signed on, lose my connection, automatically sign back on, then lose my connection... back and forth about six times within a second. Then it says I've tried to sign on too many times, so I'm forced to wait."

For AIM users, when *iChat* goes through this cycle of connecting and disconnecting,



it's most likely a result of *iChat*'s port settings not being in agreement with the server. The default port for *iChat* is 5190, but using port 443 should resolve this issue.

To change the port, go to the *iChat* preferences and in the Accounts section, select the AIM account and go to the Server Settings tab. From here, you can easily change the specified port from 5190 to 443.

To remove your *iChat* preferences, go to the User > Library > Preferences folder and remove the file named *com.apple.iChat.plist*, and then restart *iChat*. This will reset the program to the default settings, and as such may overcome any settings problems that might have been causing the connection issues.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.



worried about disk space on your laptop, you could always use an external drive to hold the virtual hard disk image files that *Parallels* implements, as well as your Windows documents and media.

WHICH MAC IS BEST FOR VIDEO?

Q I'm a current PC user and I'm fed up with the slow-loading and dull graphics. My PC can't keep up with my video editing needs, so I need something faster. I want to buy a Mac for under £700 but don't know which one would be best for me.

Luke Bland

A New, that money will only buy you a Mac mini, or for £19 more the entry-level MacBook. Unfortunately, the mini doesn't really have enough graphics power to be much use for video editing. The MacBook has a slightly faster CPU and a better graphics chip, but it's still not a system I'd recommend for dedicated video work. If you can spare another £100, the entry-level iMac would be a much more solid choice, with a bigger screen, faster processor G5 Power Macs on eBay that sell for around £700. Usually they're listed without a monitor, but if you are upgrading from your PC, you can presumably recycle your old monitor. Also, don't forget to check out Apple's own Refurbished Store now and again for some decent discounts on a range of refurbished Mac systems.

Alternatively, if you're happy to go the second-hand route, I quite often see dual-processor G5 Power Macs on eBay that sell for around £700. Usually they're listed without a monitor, but if you are upgrading from your PC, you can presumably recycle your old monitor. Also, don't forget to check out Apple's own Refurbished Store now and again for some decent discounts on a range of refurbished Mac systems.



While the Mac mini is a great little digital media hub, it isn't really cut out for heavy video editing.



The iMac and MacBook Pro ranges are better suited to heavy digital video editing work.

DOING THE DUAL PLATFORM TIME WARP

Q I've been using Macs for two years or so and am pretty competent in most respects. I've recently had to upgrade from my tried-and-tested G4 PowerBook to a new Core 2 Duo MacBook Pro and, dare I say it, set up *Boot Camp* to run a Windows-based application. My default operating system is OS X, naturally...

After booting into Windows, I've become aware that my time is two hours ahead of South Africa Standard Time (SAST), but when I return to OS X my time is two hours behind. This is an intermittent issue. Any ideas as to its cause?

Kevin Craig

A This is a known issue and it happens because of the different methods that Windows and OS X implement to handle the time. OS X sets the system clock to GMT and then applies daylight saving and

time zone adjustments within the operating system itself. Windows can't do this because it needs to keep backwards compatibility with ancient DOS programs, so every time Windows synchronises the time on the internet, it applies the offset and writes this value to the system clock anew. Since the system clock is stored in CMOS RAM and powered by a battery, it survives from one reboot to the next. So when you swap back and forth between Windows and OS X, the operating systems will continually be overwriting the system time with their own values. But if you only boot briefly into Windows, you might not be there long enough for Windows to check the internet time and reset the system clock. So it appears to be an intermittent fault when OS switching.

So, what should you do? There isn't a fix for this per se, because it isn't actually a bug. You can set the Windows clock to GMT, but you need to reset it every time Windows starts. The best way to do this is to create a simple batch file. Boot into Windows and create a new file in *Notepad* containing the following lines of text:

```
@echo off
net time /setsntp:tick.usno.navy.mil
net stop w32time
net start w32time
```

Now save this file with the extension **.bat** and put the file in the **Startup** folder on the **Start** menu. ●

ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q I updated *iTunes* to version 8.0.1 this morning and immediately had a failed iPhone sync, error code 13014. Initially I used *Software Update* and repaired permissions, then I downloaded the .dmg of *iTunes* but with no change.

sduidla Joined: 26 Jun 2005 Posts: 536 Location: North West Scotland

A Update: I downloaded the standalone version, re-installed then repaired permissions and restarted. All is well now.

sduidla Joined: 26 Jun 2005 Posts: 536 Location: North West Scotland

Q Can you copy notes from a Mac to the iPhone instead of doing them directly on the iPhone?

SparciaM Joined: 09 Mar 2004 Posts: 543 Location: Manchester

A Go to the App Store and get *Air Sharing*. This will turn your iPhone into a server. Connect to it via *Finder* and drag and drop files as you please. You will be able to read *iWork* docs, *MS Office* docs, PDFs and so on from within *Air Sharing*. It works rather well and once you have your files, you can disconnect and turn the server part of *Air Sharing* off. You can even set a user ID and password. I got *Air Sharing* when it was free for a limited period, but it costs £3.99 now. It is still worth paying for.

linuxuser Joined: 03 Apr 2005 Posts: 766

Q *iPhoto 7.1.4* has lost my movie clips (AVI) imported off my digital camera. The thumbnails are there, but no actual clip. Right-clicking on *iPhoto's* library to find them yields nothing. I'm travelling, so have no backup!

big58monkey Joined: 05 Oct 2008 Posts: 1

A *iPhoto* will only play MOV, MP4 or M4V files last time I checked. Perhaps when you imported your AVI file it only imported its preview image.

Future-Echoes Joined: 21 Jun 2003 Posts: 5588 Location: Essex

A Well, I've found the AVI files in my *iPhoto* library – double left-clicking them opens them in *QuickTime*. In fact, I've just tried importing an AVI from my Canon camera into *iPhoto* and it worked fine and plays, as stated above, in *QuickTime*. On this Mac I have *DivX*, *Flip4Mac* and *Perian* installed. I'm not sure how much difference they will make to AVI compatibility in *iPhoto* though. 7.1.4 (317) looks like the same version as you have.

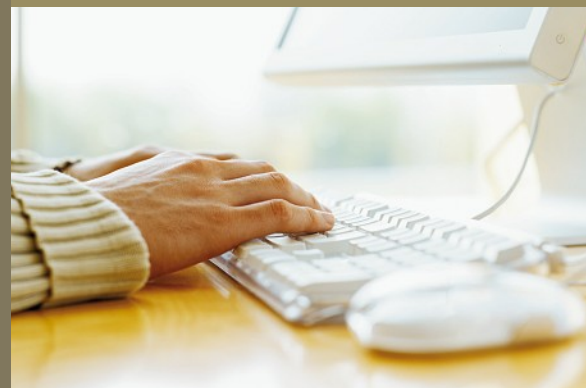
Rhakios Joined: 31 Jul 2005 Posts: 511 Location: Midlands

Q I have an iMac (Intel). I have had it a couple of years and now a thin green line has appeared running from the top to the bottom of the screen. Is this a common and repairable problem or does it mean my screen is damaged?

vuw74 Joined: 19 Oct 2008 Posts: 1

A This is not a common problem. Consult an Apple dealer/repair facility. The monitor is by far the most expensive component of the computer.

Ramaprem Joined: 28 Dec 2004 Posts: 615 Location: Freiburg, Germany



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This is my last issue as Reviews Editor at *MacFormat*. After three years of playing with Apple creations and accessories, it's time to move on. But what a great month it has been. Apple released new MacBooks and MacBook Pros with a new aluminium look. See what else is new

about them in our in-depth reviews, starting over the page.

If the new laptops weren't exciting enough, Adobe released a final beta version of *Creative Suite 4*. The suite is formidable, so we give over a huge seven pages of reviews on testing it.

There's plenty more, including VMware *Fusion* for running Windows on your Mac, RIM's BlackBerry Bold gives the iPhone a run for its money, and we have laptop bags, speakers, drives, storage and other accessories. Following on from our reviews section is the shareware round-up and this month's Group Test of multifunction devices. All the best.



Apple MacBook
2.4GHz **p76**



Adobe Creative
Suite CS4 **p86**



Group Test: all
in ones **p104**

James

Reviewed this issue...

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Reviews

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★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★☆☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
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PORTABLE MAC

Apple MacBook 2.4GHz

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CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple
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KEY SPECS

Processor: 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo **RAM:** 2GB **Hard disk:** 250GB 5400rpm SATA hard drive **Ports:** Gigabit Ethernet, 2x USB 2.0, Mini DisplayPort, audio line in, audio line out, Kensington lock slot **Optical drive:** 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) **Display:** 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen, 1280x800 pixels **Graphics:** NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM shared with main memory **Dimensions:** 325x227x24.1mm **Weight:** 2.04kg

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Beautiful aluminium unibody design
- ⊕ Backlit keyboard and glossy screen
- ⊕ Much improved 3D graphics performance
- ⊖ Even more expensive than before
- ⊖ No general system speed boost
- ⊖ No FireWire port

VERDICT

★★★★★

"We love the new aluminium look. If you can afford it, then the new MacBook is in a class of its own."

At first glance the new MacBook looks like a cross between the iMac and the MacBook Air. It's got the aluminium body and black keyboard reminiscent of the Air, but it's chunkier and its 13.3-inch (viewable) glossy screen comes complete with an iMac-style black border. It's available in two versions – a 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 2GB of RAM and a 160GB hard drive for £949, and a 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, also with 2GB of RAM, but with a 250GB hard drive for £1,149. For this review, we've got our hands on the 2.4GHz MacBook.

Apple was never known for being generous with its notebook ports, and the new MacBook is no exception. Along with the 8x SuperDrive you get just two USB ports, a Gigabit Ethernet port, Mini DisplayPort (a new industry standard for connecting external monitors) and audio line in and out, but no FireWire ports at all. That's it. In the cold light of day it looks stingy, and the lack of a FireWire port is going to immediately put off anybody who already owns a FireWire hard disk or camera.

Fetching body

The big design breakthrough this time is the new aluminium unibody. Apple has completely changed the way it manufactures laptops, hewing the main body of the MacBook out of a single piece of aluminium instead of constructing it from multiple parts. The advantage of Apple's new design process is increased rigidity in the frame at the same time as reduced weight. The result is a surprisingly robust and streamlined notebook. It's a thing of beauty: the lines are clean, sharp and crisp. It's slightly lighter than its predecessor, but still fairly hefty at 2.04 kg. The new case design also facilitates easier access to the hard drive than in



The aluminium unibody, glass screen and black keyboard make up the smooth, stylish look of the new MacBook.

the previous MacBook. One simple catch and the back panel is removed, giving you access to the battery and hard drive. To get at the RAM slots (which can take up to 4GB of RAM) you need to unscrew the back panel completely, but this is easy enough, and simply requires a small cross-head screwdriver and the removal of eight screws.

The MacBook also seems to emit less heat than previous

space surrounding each key and it feels punchy too. In a surprise move, the 2.4GHz MacBook now comes with the backlit ambient light-sensing keyboard that was previously only a feature of the MacBook Pro. The real innovation here, however, has been reserved for the trackpad. Apple has got rid of the button entirely, turning the whole of the trackpad area into one big button, which depresses when you click it.

"The advantage of Apple's new design process is increased rigidity in the frame and reduced weight"

models. While the underside certainly gets warm, it doesn't reach the soaring temperatures that Apple notebooks have traditionally been known for. We did manage to get the MacBook to overheat once during our testing by resting it on top of another, already warm, notebook. This simply resulted in the MacBook going to sleep when it overheated, and was quickly resolved by moving it to a cooler location.

The keyboard feels great. There's a decent amount of

Another new feature is that you can designate the bottom-right or left area as a right-click zone. Despite the lack of a button, we found the new trackpad totally natural to use, our only criticism being that the very top area can't be depressed. The new trackpad's surface is made of glass, which feels silky smooth to the touch, and it supports the full range of Multi-Touch gestures, with a couple of new four-finger gestures thrown in to quickly activate Exposé and the application switcher.

You might have noticed that the processor speeds on the new MacBooks are pretty much the same as the speeds of the old models, and our benchmarks show that nothing has really changed in terms of overall system performance. Instead of piling gigahertz to the main processor, Apple has decided to up the ante in the MacBook's 3D graphics capabilities instead. The MacBook now has an Nvidia GeForce 9400M graphics processor with 16 parallel processing cores, which Apple claims gives it up to a 4x boost over the previous MacBook in *Doom 3* and 5x in *Quake 4* over the old Intel GMA X3100. In real world tests, *Doom 3* certainly felt more playable on the new MacBook (as opposed to hardly playable at all), although, inexplicably, we couldn't get the sound to work in the game, but we'll just mark that down as a strange anomaly. The benchmark clocked up a very healthy 39.7 frames per second in High Quality video mode at a screen resolution of 1024x768.

When it comes to battery life, Apple is quoting five hours

TOP 3 FEATURES | The MacBook's sleek new functionality

**Mini DisplayPort**

Designed to connect to Apple's new LED Cinema Display, the Mini DisplayPort is new to Apple's notebooks and a new industry standard connector for display devices. Adaptor cables for connected MDP to DVI and VGA are available for £20 and £15 respectively from the Apple Store.

**Glass Multi-Touch trackpad**

The whole of the trackpad now depresses when you click it, meaning there's no area reserved as a button and you have more room than before to use scroll. It also has a smooth glass surface that supports all the standard Multi-Touch gestures, and Apple has added some new four-finger gestures.

**Precision aluminium unibody enclosure**

Apple's design and engineering teams have devised a way to build a notebook enclosure from a single piece of aluminium, instead of creating it in the traditional way from multiple parts. This results in a much more solid feel to the MacBook in your hand, and also slightly reduces the weight.

of "wireless productivity", which, based on our actual usage of the MacBook, seems reasonably accurate to us. Talking of WiFi, we did find that we unexpectedly lost our Airport connection on occasion when using the new MacBook, only to have it reconnect after a couple of minutes. This could, potentially, be something to do with the new aluminium case, but the jury is still out on that one. At least the problem certainly didn't affect an older white MacBook connected to the same network.

Reflective angst

Finally, let's talk about the backlit LED glass screen. The advantage of LED is that it's instant on – there's no warm-up time, so as soon as you lift the lid your screen appears. However, the glossy screen has angered certain quarters of the design community because it causes reflections if you're sitting with your back to a window, or have an electric light behind you. Some designers find this distracting, but in our opinion the benefits of the more vibrant screen outweigh any negatives.

Before the covers finally came off the new aluminium MacBook, the rumour mill was in a frenzy over an \$800 cut-down portable Mac that would bring Apple's unique ease of

use and cutting-edge design flair to a whole new (and presumably less affluent) audience. Judging by the breathless comments on just about every web forum known to mankind, that was absolutely what everybody

"£949 for a consumer-level laptop is a big ask in these days of the credit crunch and general economic gloom"

wanted. What it's done instead is almost the exact opposite – a MacBook that's £320 more expensive than its predecessor, but also a major step up in terms of quality in almost every way, turning a consumer, entry-level laptop into

something a professional would be more than happy with, barring a few odd little quirks, such as the lack of a FireWire port.

Let's be honest, £949 (the 2.0GHz MacBook) for a consumer-level laptop is a big

ask in these days of the credit crunch and general economic gloom, let alone £1,149 for the 2.4GHz model. Apple, as always, is treading its own path, but it has still left the old, white, polycarbonate MacBook hidden away on the back shelf

of the Apple Store at £719 as a backup option, just in case everybody is as cash-strapped as the media says they are. We think that was a wise decision. The new aluminium MacBook is superior in design and features to the old one, and addresses the 3D graphics problems well, but it's not any faster if you don't want to play 3D games, and the price jump is just such a big ask in the days of the £300 netbook that we think for once Apple might just have misjudged the state of the market. Time will tell, of course, and we'd love to be proved wrong, because it's impossible not to adore the new MacBook.

Graham Barlow

THE SPECS | How does the new MacBook compare?

	New Aluminium MacBook 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM.	Old white MacBook 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM.	Old white MacBook 2.2 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM.
Cinebench (single CPU)*	2,653	2,745	2,387
Cinebench (multi CPU)*	5,155	5,154	4,375
CPU test (XBench)*	142	141	126
Quartz Graphics test (XBench)*	173	184	170

* higher is better

The CPU and Quartz Graphics test results were generated using XBench, but do not reflect 3D gaming performance. Cinebench is a widely used benchmarking application based on the powerful 3D rendering software Cinema 4D. Both Cinebench and XBench can be downloaded from the internet for free. Results may vary between equally specced computers depending on several factors, including wear and tear, installed software and the version of the OS installed.

15-INCH NOTEBOOK

Apple MacBook Pro 2.53GHz

£1,749 It looks like an overgrown MacBook, but there's more to the new MacBook Pro than meets the eye

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476593

KEY SPECS

Processor: 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
RAM: 4GB **Hard disk:** 320GB 5400rpm
SATA hard drive Ports: Gigabit Ethernet, 2x USB 2.0 FireWire 800, ExpressCard/34, Mini DisplayPort, audio line in, audio line out, Kensington lock slot **Optical drive:** 8x slot-loading SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) **Display:** 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen, 1440x900 pixels
Graphics: NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of DDR3 SDRAM shared with main memory, NVIDIA GeForce 9600M GT with with 512MB of GDDR3 RAM **Dimensions:** 364x249x24.1mm **Weight:** 2.49kg

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Dual graphics cards
- ⊕ Not much more than the MacBook
- ⊕ Vastly improved case
- ⊕ Superb screen
- ⊖ Clunky graphics card switch process
- ⊖ No Blu-ray drive

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Finally, Apple has ditched its pretty-but-old-fashioned five-year-old case design; not to mention, it's a screamer."

Sure, the MacBook looks great, and the fact that there's no longer such an obvious style divide between it and the more powerful MacBook Pro models is big news. But in our minds the real change is that the new unibody case of the MacBook Pro marks a bigger shift between the old and new MacBook Pros than between the two MacBook generations.

Look at the evidence: until this latest MacBook Pro was launched, Apple's professional laptop line was using a design that was just an incremental evolution of a case it introduced a full five years ago. It was pretty, yes, but it was also surprisingly old-fashioned in the way it did some things. The case closed not with the magnetic clasp of the MacBook, but with a physical, fault-prone catch. And unlike with the black and white MacBooks, in which removing the hard disk to upgrade or recover the data from it was a simple matter of slipping out the hard disk, the old MacBook Pros required you to open up the whole case. Frankly, it wasn't something even we at *MacFormat* felt comfortable doing, so unless you wanted to pay a technician to fit it instead, you were left with a very powerful machine toting a titchy hard disk.

New look

Now, that has all changed. The updated MacBook Pro cases use the same design as their baby brothers; the lid closes with a satisfying soft *thunk* – and opens with just the perfect amount of pressure – and the hard disk can be easily upgraded simply by popping off the back panel, released by a Mac Pro-like catch. This is important; while Apple would like to charge you £105 to upgrade the 5,400rpm 250GB



The MacBook Pro's new case is more than just good-looking; you can now upgrade the hard disk yourself, and the latch is satisfyingly magnetic.

hard disk in the entry-level MacBook Pro to a 7,200rpm 320GB model, you could buy one online for £55 and still have the 250GB drive that came inside the laptop to fit into an external case and use.

Like the MacBook, it looks as if the RAM is limited to a total of 4GB – acceptable, but we'd like to have seen it able to take more so mobile pros can take

been apparent when lifting previous generations one-handed – and drop-dead gorgeous. Opinion remains divided on how the black-Scrabble tile-style keys look, but there's no denying that they feel fantastic; you might think that the spacing would take some getting used to after the joined-up keys of the previous generation, but that's

"The Pro does include FireWire – don't get excited, though; there's only one port and it's FireWire 800"

advantage of the greater RAM ceiling 64-bit allows – but for once the difference in price between Apple and, say, Crucial's RAM to upgrade the entry-level MacBook Pro from 2 to 4GB is negligible. Again, though, if you did it yourself, you'd have the old two 1GB chips which someone might buy from you. RAM upgrading just involves removing the base plate screws.

The new case isn't just practical, though; it's also stunning. It feels rock solid – something that hasn't always

not so; the keys are in the same position. As with the older MacBook Pros and PowerBooks – and, now, the more expensive MacBook configuration – the keys glow impressively whenever the ambient lighting drops.

Ports and slots

Unlike the MacBook, the Pro does include FireWire – don't get too excited, though; there's only one port, and it's FireWire 800. While we love FireWire 800's speed, FireWire 400 is still much more widespread. You

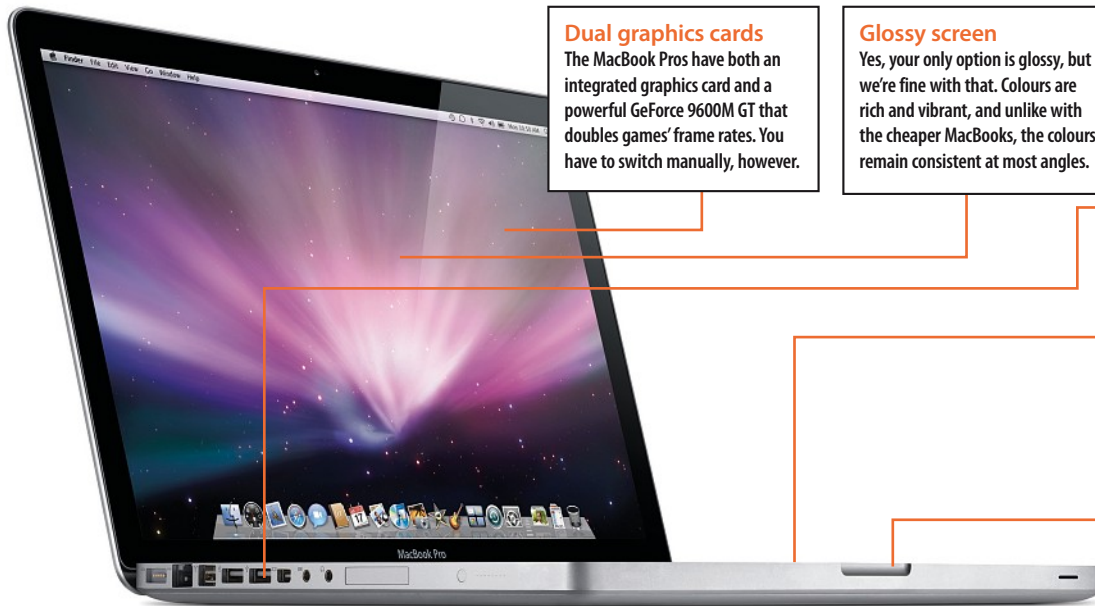
can get adaptors and cables that go from FireWire 800 to the standard 6-pin FireWire 400 or even the 4-pin DV camera ports, but that means buying more stuff.

The Pro retains the ExpressCard/34 slot, which is handy not only for peripherals such as 3G data cards, but can, thanks to the efforts of third parties, also be used to provide the memory card slots that Apple refuses to include.

And like the MacBook, the left-hand side (why the left, Apple, why the left?) that houses the ports also includes a battery meter. While it's nice to be able to see the charge level without squinting at the bottom of the laptop, on-the-road pros will miss the ability to press a button on the base of multiple batteries to check how much charge they have.

Given that the MacBook Pro has essentially the same case as the MacBook, it comes as no surprise to learn that it too has worse WiFi performance than the all-plastic, previous-generation MacBook. It's acceptable wireless reception, but nothing more.

NEW MACBOOK PRO | The highlights (and the lowlights)

**Dual graphics cards**

The MacBook Pros have both an integrated graphics card and a powerful GeForce 9600M GT that doubles games' frame rates. You have to switch manually, however.

Glossy screen

Yes, your only option is glossy, but we're fine with that. Colours are rich and vibrant, and unlike with the cheaper MacBooks, the colours remain consistent at most angles.

FireWire 800

Only the MacBook Pros have a FireWire port, and it's the faster 9-pin flavour. Adapters can convert this for FireWire 400 and 4-pin devices, but that's inconvenient.

No Blu-ray

Apple still won't give us the option of a built-in Blu-ray drive to watch HD movies, and its omission in the Pro line – potentially used for media authoring – is baffling.

Magnetic latch

It may not sound like much, but the abandoning of the physical latch that held shut the previous MacBook Pro and PowerBooks is a real godsend.

One subtle difference between the two models, however, is that while the screens look similar – and be careful with them because any damage to the bezel means replacing the entire unit – the MacBook Pro's display is much more capable. Not only are colours richer and punchier on the Pro, but viewing angles are much more forgiving too; move much off the perpendicular and the MacBook's colours start to shift, something the Pro is much less guilty of.

MacBook vs MacBook Pro

The big difference between the MacBook and the MacBook Pro, however, is that the Pro has not one but two graphics cards. The buzz in the industry has been about better leveraging the phenomenal parallel processing power of today's graphics cards – something the next version of the Mac operating system, Snow Leopard, is set to capitalise on with its OpenGL technology – so the new MacBook Pro is ideally placed to take advantage of future developments here.

For now, though, the idea is that you can use the 256MB Nvidia GeForce 9400M integrated graphics chipset – the same one that the MacBook uses – when you're

on the move to conserve battery power, and switch to the more powerful discrete graphics card, a (not quite cutting-edge) 512MB GeForce 9600M GT when you want much faster performance. Unfortunately, you can't currently use the two together in an SLI configuration, nor can you switch between them on the fly; you have to log out and then back in again to effect the switch. The hardware is apparently capable of these feats, but Apple has yet to serve up the software support.

Even the integrated graphics card is a decent performer, but switching to the 9600M GT more than

doubled the frame rate of *Doom 3* to 104fps, and it even managed an astonishing 50fps at 1,600x1,200 pixels with all the settings maxed out.

Future-proof design

In terms of raw number crunching, there's little to differentiate the MacBook Pro line-up from its cheaper siblings – though there's a £210 2.8GHz built-to-order option that the cheaper MacBooks lack – but the MacBook Pro line-up represents a more refined laptop. The screen is bigger, the graphics more adept and the connectivity options more fleshed out.

There's a strong argument which says that the MacBook is such an accomplished laptop these days that nobody needs the extra bells and whistles of the pricier line. The difference in price between the low-end MacBook Pro and the high-end MacBook (the two with the same 2.4GHz CPU) is only £250, however, and we should see Snow Leopard do impressive things with the dual GPU when it comes.

The MacBook Pro remains a more future-proof design, and if you rely on any FireWire peripherals, it's your only choice if you're in the market for a new Mac laptop.

Christopher Phin

THE SPECS | How does the new MacBook Pro compare?

	New MacBook Pro 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 4GB RAM	New MacBook 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM	Old white MacBook 2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM
Cinebench (single CPU)*	2761	2653	2745
Cinebench (multi CPU)*	5560	5155	5154
CPU test (XBench)*	148	142	141
Quartz Graphics test (XBench)*	184	173	184

* higher is better

The CPU and Quartz Graphics test results were generated using *XBench*, but do not reflect 3D gaming performance. *Cinebench* is a widely used benchmarking application based on the powerful 3D rendering software *Cinema 4D*. Both *Cinebench* and *XBench* can be downloaded from the internet for free. Results may vary between equally specced computers depending on several factors, including wear and tear, installed software and the version of the OS installed.

IPOD SPEAKER DOCK

Maxell Timedomain Speaker MXSP-4000

£69 Rugby-ball-on-a-spike meets iPod speaker system

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Maxell
www.maxell.eu.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477179

KEY SPECS

Maximum output: 5W Inputs: iPod Dock Connector, 3.5mm stereo minijack Includes: Remote dimensions: 200x236x170mm

FOR AND AGAINST

- Reasonable price
- Competent audio
- Interesting design
- Not for iPhone
- Audio isn't perfect
- Remote and line-in

VERDICT

★★★★★

"If you can picture it on your mantelpiece, you'll be happy. Not sonically superb, though."

Quite what the design process was that led Maxell's designers to lop the ends of a rugby ball and stick it on a metal-effect plastic spike, we don't know, but we're quite happy they did.

The design is divisive – generally, it gets the thumbs up from the *MacFormat* team, though there are dissenting voices – and the finish is a little rough. Despite this, though, the audio is proficient. It lacks richness and depth – 'soul' really – but it's by no means dreadful. Vocals are especially clear – though this seems to be at the expense of other parts of the audio spectrum, pushing the singer to prominence where it shouldn't really be on some recordings – and while acoustic music can

sound a bit jangly and jarring, we're generally pleased. Stereo separation is, as you'd expect from a device that puts the drivers on the sides, very good, and we enjoyed putting it in the centre of our desks and letting it fill the area with music. It came as no surprise to find that audio broke up as we cranked the volume, but it held together at levels that would fill most rooms.

The Timedomain comes with a simple but large remote control, and the male-to-male cable lets you hook it up to anything that has a 3.5mm minijack; you could connect your Mac this way, for example.

The standard iPod docking system is supported, though none of the model-specific inserts come in the box; just



It may have merely competent audio, but the MXSP-4000's styling and price are in its favour.

hope you still have the adaptor that came with your iPod. That said, any will fit without the adaptor; it may just wobble a little. Note that it's not GSM shielded, so it won't work well

with an iPhone unless it's switched to Airplane Mode.

There's nothing stellar about this product; it's a competent performer at a decent price. **Christopher Phin**

HARDWARE VIDEO ENCODER

Pinnacle Video Transfer

£100 Cut your Mac out of the equation when getting video onto your iPod

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Pinnacle Systems
www.pinnadesys.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/478551

KEY SPECS

Supports: iPod video, iPod nano (third gen), iPod classic, Sony PSP, Sony PSP slim, flash drive, USB 2.0 hard drive.

FOR AND AGAINST

- One-step video encoding
- Can record from any source
- Plenty of leads in the box
- You have to format your iPod as FAT32
- Doesn't work with the fourth gen nano
- Can't record to a Mac

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Pinnacle needs to have a think about this product before it will appeal to Mac users."

Pinnacle Video Transfer makes adding video to your iPod easy. Instead of encoding video on your Mac and dropping it into *iTunes* before syncing, the Pinnacle system means you just plug one end into your video source and the other straight into your iPod via USB and hit record. It then encodes the video stream straight to your iPod using the *iTunes*-friendly H.264 video codec.

In theory it should save you a lot of messing about. You just have to choose one of three quality settings by pressing the **Mode** button, and then press the **Rec** button to start and stop recording. In practice, it's not that straightforward.

For a start, it's not iPod touch or iPhone-compatible,

but worse, it's not compatible with the latest fourth-gen iPod nano. To test the product, we had to dig out our old third-gen nano. Also, for the Video Transfer to recognise your iPod it needs to be formatted using the FAT32 file system, which requires you to restore it on a PC running *iTunes* or using *Disk Utility* on a Mac (as MS-DOS (FAT)). While not a complete disaster, it's a lot of messing around for a product which is all about one-click ease of use.

Once we'd got everything formatted correctly, though, the Pinnacle did work rather well. The resulting movie encoded nicely and played back with no problems. Of course, you need to be around at the end of the movie to manually turn recording off, so



The Pinnacle Video Transfer is a great idea, but needs work in terms of Mac compatibility.

you can't leave it recording overnight, for instance.

The Video Transfer is a pretty interesting product, but it would be so much better if it were completely Mac-compatible and supported Mac-formatted iPods – then

we'd recommend it. We understand Pinnacle is working on an update that will make it possible to record directly to a Mac; let's hope it sorts out the compatibility problems at the same time. **Graham Barlow**



iPHONE SPEAKER SYSTEM

Fatman Red-i

£249 Retro valves and good quality components combine to create a whopping sound

Fatman Red-i is an anomaly; an old-fashioned valve amp with the latest in GSM shielding technology to make it iPhone compatible. It's in no way a restrained design; it's quite the reverse. It unabashedly takes pride in showing off the glowing valves and dock for iPhones or iPods that looks like roll bar from a jeep. Needless to say, we admire its boldness.

GSM shielding protects the speakers from network chatter that can cause that thump-thump when an iPhone picks up data near an unshielded stereo system. Without this feature on a stereo with a Universal Dock, you would need to turn the iPhone to Airplane mode, which means you could no longer take calls.

The Red-i has a gorgeous sound when the valves are warmed up, and it takes less time for the Red-i to warm up than its Fatman iTube predecessor. About 30 minutes into testing, it was firing along nicely. We used dub reggae to test the low end, funk to test the mids, and flamenco to sound out the highs, among other genres and some spoken word. The overall balance of sounds is warm and punchy. All the details are there. The heavy, wood speaker boxes can throw out surprising levels of volume and are power efficient at just 25W per channel. Their prowess reminds us not to mistake low power handling with volume potential, and pointed out some real value in this product.

KEY SPECS

Dimensions (amp): 450x220x210mm
 Dimensions (speaker): 330x315x210mm
 Weight (amp): 5.8kgs
 Weight (speaker): 6.8kgs
 Power output: 2x 25W
 Frequency response: 20Hz 20KHz (± 1.5 dB)

The feature-set offers a good spread of options including an IR remote, RCA inputs for other audio sources and proper video-out ports for hooking up with a TV.

Generally, the quality of the components and knobs is good. There's some real attention to detail, with things like pre-wired up banana plugged cables in the box ready to go, and a 3.5mm stereo input slot for taking audio from almost any source.

The use of valve amps is a gimmick, although the sound quality is as good as it looks; you can unscrew the grille around the valves to show them off if you like.

What you don't get is a radio or a USB port for syncing with a Mac, but those two features are not essential. In a nutshell, it's a stronger, better-sounding and better-featured hi-fi than other Fatman products we have seen, and it's the only fully iPhone-ready set.

The price has dropped in the few weeks that the product has been on the market, perhaps indicating the current financial climate or the time of year. For the money, though, we think the Red-i represents good value. **James Ellerbeck**

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Fatman
www.fat-man.co.uk
 Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476779

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Great sound
- ⊕ High quality components
- ⊕ iPhone compatible
- ⊕ Power efficient
- ⊕ Removable valve grill
- ⊖ No Mac syncing

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Excellent sound, stunning looks, and plenty of features to exploit. Great system!"

MACBOOK SATCHEL

AO Ally Capellino Wide Despatch Satchel

£120 An elegant satchel for a cafe visit, but less useful for the daily commute

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Ally Capellino
www.allycapellino.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476836

KEY SPECS

Dimensions: 28cmx16cmx21cm
Weight: 0.5kg
Guarantee: One year

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Elegant design
- ⊕ Natural materials and colours
- ⊕ Sensible use of internal space
- ⊖ Needs better padding
- ⊖ Stitching needs to be tougher
- ⊖ Price may put some people off

VERDICT

★★★★★

"We liked the natural materials but need more protection for our beloved laptops."

Ally Capellino's AO Bags for Apple follow on from her work for the Tate Gallery and Cowshed. True to form, Capellino has used natural materials and colours to make this one, which is also available in a sand colour.

The design is the classic satchel format, with canvas sides, leather straps and corners. Inside is a soft-lined pouch big enough to take a 15-inch MacBook Pro, a mobile phone pouch and space for cables and accessories. You get further zip-lined pouches on the front of the bag and another inside area separate from the laptop pouch.

Although we don't profess to know much about the fashion world, we do know what makes a good laptop

bag. The essential ingredients for us are strong padding, enough pockets for a sensible amount of accessories and a strong build quality to stand the test of time.

The level of padding worked into this bag is low, especially compared to your average Brenthaven or Knomo bag. You get a floppy enclosure with no stiff protection and perhaps 2cm of fabric padding at its thickest point. If you need a bag for a stroll to a nearby cafe then fine, but forget daily barging on the Underground.

The stitching could be stronger, especially at this price. The Ally Capellino logo on the front of the bag is stuck on, not stitched, which is convenient if you want to remove it, but the stitchwork



It's hard to think you're not just paying for the label – which comes off, incidentally, dashing the reasons you had for buying it.

holding the straps in place is frail and we worry how much abuse these could take.

Satchel bags for laptops are rare. We liked the size and look for this one, but balked at the

price, questioned its sturdiness and would not recommend it for daily use unless you have some additional protection around your laptop.

James Ellerbeck

CARTRIDGE-BASED EXTERNAL BACKUP SYSTEM

Tandberg Data RDX Quikstor

£138 Tape is yesterday's news, apparently. We're onto cartridge now

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Tandberg Data
www.tandbergdata.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476867

KEY SPECS

Interface: USB 2.0 Cartridge: 300GB
Access time: 15msec Average sustained transfer: 25MB/s Burst transfer: 480Mb/s

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Very solid design
- ⊕ Failsafe drive locking
- ⊖ Highly expensive
- ⊖ No additional Mac software
- ⊖ USB 2.0 bottleneck
- ⊖ Non-encrypted

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A neat idea, but it's too expensive for the tiny niche that needs it."

Depending on your viewpoint, the RDX Quikstor is one of two things. It's either a cartridge-based backup system designed to replace tape for off-site office backups, or it's a cunning way to use plastic packaging to sell standard kit for extra money.

The cartridges, you see, are just mobile hard drives in clever packaging – definitely a lot more convenient than tape backup, but with the best price for a 300GB cartridge standing at around £250 from Dabs.com, that packaging is starting to look pricey. Search around and you'll be able to find an equivalent mobile drive, sans natty plastic box, for £60-£70, and tapes cost about the same amount. Ouch.

Windows users get a host of tools for the financial outlay; us Mac users, so far, aren't as happily catered for. The Quikstor just appears as an external drive, enabling you to make use of the perfectly adequate *Time Machine* for backups. So really, particularly in this external USB 2.0 guise, this is just a fancy external drive. Even at the enterprise level, it's hard to justify paying so much for what ends up being bog-standard storage.

It's not alone in the cartridge-based backup market, either. Unquestionably, the removable platter format of Iomega's REV drive is superior to the Quikstor's standard mobile hard drive in terms of shock protection, and REV disks are smaller and



Does its rugged exterior make you feel funny inside? It'd better. It's going to cost you a bomb.

slightly better value. But the chunky Quikstor cartridges can stand a knock or two, and if they didn't use standard (read: flimsy) SATA rear connectors we'd be even more convinced of their long-term ruggedness. Tandberg Data reckons they'll last a good 10 years or 5,000 insertions. We'll go with that.

If we were looking at this in its internal guise, which eliminates the USB bottleneck, we might feel differently about the system. This is probably the best cartridge-based backup solution out there, but you probably already know if you're going to find it useful. Chances are you won't.

Alex Cox



SMARTPHONE

RIM BlackBerry Bold 9000

£190 It can't be a BlackBerry, it looks far too good!

For an Apple enthusiast, it's not an easy thing to say, but what the hell: we think this latest BlackBerry looks plain awesome next to the anonymous black slab of the iPhone. Oh sure; it lacks the iPhone's polish and Star Trek-like touch magic, but there's something about the backlit keyboard, glowing navigation roller ball and chunky, matte frame that just feels exciting.

Don't get us wrong – after weeks with the Bold, we won't be giving up our iPhones, but the finish of the hardware makes it the first BlackBerry that we would even consider.

PocketMac software

Mac users still seem to be an afterthought for its maker, Research In Motion. Although

KEY SPECS

Wireless networks: UMTS (2100/1900/850MHz), GSM (1900/1800/900/850MHz)
 WiFi: 802.11a/b/g Screen: 480x320 pixels
 Storage: 1GB, expandable with microSD
 Dimensions: 114x66x15mm Weight: 136g
 Full specs at <http://tinyurl.com/3togol>

a native Mac client is apparently in the works, for the moment we have to content ourselves with the version of PocketMac for BlackBerry that RIM has licensed for free download from its site. It does the job, and lets you sync data with the Bold from a raft of PIM apps on the Mac, but it lacks elegance.

The hardware itself is superb, and the jewel in the crown is the keyboard. This is the reason people harp on

about not getting along with the iPhone's virtual keyboard. It's perhaps a little stiff – though it may relent given time – but has keys shaped and positioned in such a way that a kind of all-thumbs touch-typing is perfectly practical. We still prefer the iPhone here, but this is easily the best small-format physical keyboard we've tested. It's a little broad to type with one-handed, but it's otherwise very comfortable to hold and use.

The trackball is a good navigation device, though those with long nails might find it hard to depress.

Worse, however, is what the trackball controls – the BlackBerry operating system. Regardless of the very pretty lick of paint it has here, it

leaves us cold. That it lacks any sort of charisma would be forgivable if it were practical, but it just feels unfinished.

BlackBerry vs iPhone

On paper, the specs broadly match the iPhone, and indeed the inclusion of features such as an 18-month licence for proper GPS software means that in some respects it roundly trounces Apple's smartphone. No amount of beautiful styling, though, can mask the charmless operating system, and after more than a year with the iPhone, much about the Bold now feels horribly old-fashioned.

If your work insists you have a BlackBerry, insist it's a Bold, but don't buy one yourself.
Christopher Phin

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer RIM
www.rim.com
 Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/452908

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✦ Stunning design
- ✦ Peerless keyboard
- ✦ 18-month GPS software licence
- ✖ Clumsy operating system
- ✖ Little support for Mac users
- ✖ The email handling ain't all that

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It's got power and good looks, but the OS is charmless and Mac users are just tolerated."

MAC RAM

Corsair 4GB Mac Memory

£100 The quickest way to upgrade your Mac

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Corsair
URL www.corsair.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477191

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Upgrading your RAM is still the easiest and best way to go for a faster Mac."

Despite pretending to take note when colleagues on PC magazines dribble on about BIOS standardisation, latency speeds and system boards, we do admit to a passing interest in RAM, as, nicely accessible Mac Pros aside, this is the easiest hardware upgrade a Mac owner can make. RAM can easily be added to all Macs.

Corsair has been promoting its low latency RAM for MacBooks, MacBook Pros and iMacs, which supposedly gives as much as a 28% performance boost compared to competing brands. Xbench told us the Corsair RAM offered a 3% improvement over equivalent Kingston modules on our iMac. This was considerably less than the claimed increase, but an increase

all the same, so if you need a RAM upgrade for your new MacBook or iMac, look no further. RAM prices are volatile but the £100 tag was available at the time of writing. James Ellerbeck



CLEVER CASE

Griffin Clarifi

£22 An iPhone 3G case that improves the view



CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Griffin
URL www.griffintechology.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476914

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Adds a handy extra dimension to your iPhone, and a great case to boot."

Among the deluge of iPhone 3G cases that wash up on MacFormat's shores, this one stood out. It's a hard iPhone 3G case in two parts. When the Clarifi is on the ports and buttons remain exposed for easy access. The bottom half of the case can also slide away separately so the iPhone can be placed in a standard docking well.

So far, so pretty standard. However, the deal clincher for us was the inclusion of a built-in macro lens that slides easily over the iPhone's camera lens to improve the quality of close-up shots. The Clarifi lens instantly gives close-up shots a crispness that the iPhone camera lacks, making it ideal for taking shots of text on business cards, for instance.

The macro lens has its limits, as you might expect from a lens small enough to be worked into a case, but we still love it. As the rest of the case is solid, and the price not too high, we recommend the Clarifi as the protector of choice for your iPhone 3G. James Ellerbeck



IN-CAR KIT

Kensington LiquidAUX

£55 In-car connector for iPhones and iPods

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Kensington
URL <http://uk.kensington.com>
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476944

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Well built and innovative with the first IR remote for a car system that we have seen."

Kensington has a new range of iPhone and iPod gear out in time for Christmas, including this in-car audio kit that will connect an iPhone, iPod or any 3.5mm audio source to a car's stereo system – a car that has a 3.5mm audio jack worked into the dashboard that is. Once we'd found such a car, the LiquidAUX's sound quality was very good and the flappy remote also worked well.

The unique selling point of this Kensington LiquidAUX is the flappy paddle remote control that comes with it. This attaches to your steering wheel so you can control playback without having to reach down and flick through the tracks with your eyes off the road. We applaud this solution given the worrying amount of accidents being attributed to people more interested in playing with gadgets while driving than obeying the Highway Code.

Look out for more reviews of Kensington's latest gear over the coming issues. James Ellerbeck



PORTABLE CHARGER

Powergorilla

£150 Portable power charger for MacBook Air

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Powertraveller
URL www.powertraveller.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/475779

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Great for charging the MacBook Air or your iPhone in an emergency."

Much has been made of the MacBook Air's completely sealed case, meaning you can't simply pop in a new battery when you're out of juice and on the road.

The Powergorilla offers a solution – it's a tough and portable laptop battery charger. Once you've charged it up you can get pretty much a full charge on your MacBook Air out of it. There's also a USB port that enables you to charge your iPod and iPhone (we tested it with a variety of iPods, and they all charged happily).

Annoyingly, while it comes with all sorts of leads in the box, for every type of PC laptop and mobile phone under the sun, it doesn't come with Apple's MagSafe adaptor. To get it to work with your MacBook Air you need to buy Apple's MagSafe Airline Adapter (£29), and plug that into the car charger adaptor that comes in the box. It's a convoluted process, but it does work.

The Powergorilla also charges the MacBook Pro, but you'd be better off buying a second battery for £99 from Apple. Graham Barlow



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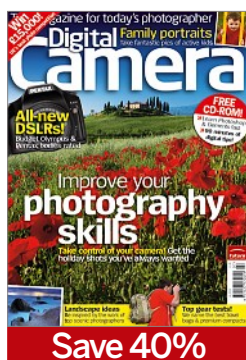
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PROFESSIONAL IMAGE EDITOR

Adobe Photoshop CS4 (beta)

£564; upgrade, £181 Its status as best in its field is undisputed, but has it got better?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price at TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11, G5 or Intel multi-core, 512MB of RAM (1GB recommended, 2GB realistic), 2GB disk space (plus more during install), 1,024x768 display (1,280x800 recommended), 16-bit video card (graphics support for Shader Model 3.0 and OpenGL 2.0 recommended)

FOR AND AGAINST

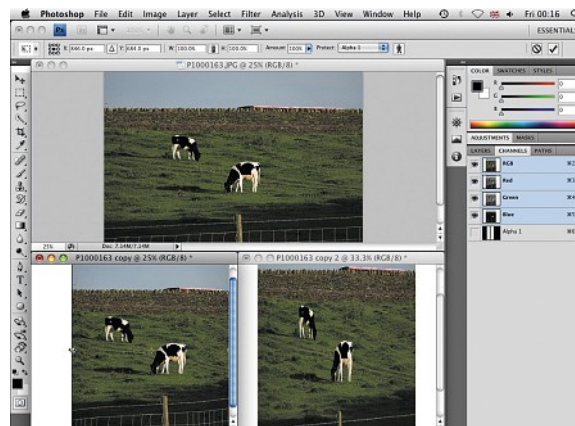
- ⊕ Rotate View and zoom enhancements
- ⊕ Easier adjustments and masking
- ⊕ You may like the new interface
- ⊕ Great new 3D features...
- ⊖ ...but only in *Extended*
- ⊖ No real must-have additions

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An unassailably effective image-editing workhorse, but with only a few new tricks this time round."

Content Aware Scaling (bottom left) stopped these cows getting squashed, but only when we masked them manually.



Photoshop is one of the few applications that stands alone in its market. There may be other ways to edit images – photographers have Adobe's own *Lightroom* and Apple's *Aperture* – but nothing matches *Photoshop's* breadth and depth of features. You could be forgiven for thinking there wasn't much more to add, except that *Photoshop* users are rarely lost for a shortcoming to bemoan. This latest version will satisfy some of their cravings, while still leaving itches unscratched.

Panels and windows

As with the other CS4 apps, the Application Frame and tabbed windows are disorienting at first, but on closer inspection the toolbox and panels are pretty familiar. While looking different from CS3, the panel docks behave in much the same way, which is not entirely a good thing. Sometimes you can resize a panel, sometimes you can't, and getting the ones you want to coexist neatly can be a constant niggle. Still, once you've got acclimatised and tried the various tiling options, you'll begin to appreciate the benefits. You can revert to floating windows if you prefer, but it does seem like a better way of working.

However, some aspects feel awkward. In *Firefox* you switch tabs using [Ctrl]+[Tab], but



The Kuler Extension panel links to Adobe's intriguing online repository of user-generated colour swatch sets.

here you have to use the ⌘+[~] window switching shortcut, which confusingly ignores what order the tabs are in. You can rearrange tiled images by dragging their divider bars, which is great, but certain layouts are currently impossible, such as one image

zoom freely. Even with the **Zoom** tool and **View** shortcuts, you get a smooth transition rather than a jump.

Rotate View tool

It all feels very responsive, and is topped off by the **Rotate View** tool, with which you can

"New commands are few and far between, but the most interesting one is Content Aware Scaling"

across the top and two below. Annoyingly, you can't preset an arrangement and then load images into it; dividers only exist when they're occupied.

At last, you can zoom in and out at will, with your artwork staying smooth. This is hardly a new concept, but *Photoshop* users have traditionally put up with some jaggies at intermediate zoom factors. Thanks to Adobe's adoption of OpenGL graphics acceleration (supported by most modern Macs), you can hold ⌘ and scroll the mouse wheel to

turn the whole canvas to any angle. This could be helpful when drawing freehand, though it's a shame you have to finish your stroke before you can rotate.

When you're using a brush – whether to paint colour, clone an area or apply an adjustment – you can now resize it interactively by holding ⌘+[Ctrl] and dragging, and alter its hardness using ⌘. In CS3, the **Clone** and **Healing** tools gained an Overlay option: a ghost image of the layer you were cloning from

would follow your cursor, so you'd know what you were going to be painting with. A **Clipped** option now sensibly restricts the ghost to within your brush tip, although, at the risk of being picky, we'd have preferred it just a bit bigger. The **Dodge** and **Burn** tools, which paint areas lighter or darker, gain a **Protect Tones** tick box, making changes look more natural, while the **Sponge** can use the new **Vibrance** adjustment, borrowed from *Lightroom*, to make less noise-prone saturation tweaks. Retouchers will be pleased.

New commands are few and far between, but the most interesting is **Content Aware Scaling**, also known as seam carving. Normally, if you need to make an image fit a taller or wider space, you have to crop it; scaling it disproportionately would make people and objects look long and thin or short and fat. **CAS** tries to preserve these salient features while scaling everything else.

THE INTERFACE | Finding your way around Photoshop CS4

Application Frame

By default, all your open images and palettes are now contained within a single window. The same interface has been applied to the whole suite.

Document tabs

Instead of occupying separate floating windows, any images you're working on appear in tabs. You can also tile them in various arrangements to your liking.

3D tools

There's little change to the main toolbox except for a new pair of tools to manipulate 3D objects, but these are available only in the *Extended* edition.



Rotate View

A handy new tool that lets you rotate your artwork to any angle you like. There's no change to the image itself, just the way it's displayed in the work area.

Adjustments panel

Here you can quickly apply edits such as Levels and Curves as non-destructive Adjustment Layers.

Dead space

Within the Application Frame, nothing is allowed to overlap. It's neat, but can waste space, like this empty vertical strip.

This is a brilliant idea, but after browsing hundreds of images we failed to find a single one it really worked on. However, rather than letting **CAS** do all the work, you can manually select areas you want to leave unmolested and add these to an alpha channel, which you then choose via the **Protect** button. This worked well.

New dimension

Some of the most exciting new tools are reserved for *Photoshop Extended*, controversially introduced in CS3 to separate 3D, motion graphics and scientific users from the hoi polloi. This edition costs around £300 more (£150 for the upgrade), which is steep, but the new 3D capabilities, again exploiting OpenGL, may be enough to swing it. You can create simple 3D objects by wrapping artwork around preset shapes. Even better, you can import ready-made objects in formats such as *3D Studio*. It's amazing to be able to load a complex model into a *Photoshop* layer, control its lighting and textures, rotate it in space, then incorporate it into your artwork using masks, Adjustment Layers and so on.

Within the standard edition, potentially the most significant feature is the **Adjustments** panel. This lets you use

Adjustment Layers without all the dialog boxes, and could change the way everyday image correction is done by making this non-destructive method more accessible. Unfortunately, the panel itself is poorly designed, with a jumble of 15 icons for the various adjustments. When you click one, the panel switches to show its sliders, leaving you to click a funny grey arrow to get back to the list view. You still have to use the **Layers** panel to see which adjustment you're working on.

The accompanying Masks panel lets you feather a layer mask, alter its density (the

degree to which it applies) and refine its edge. The fact that you can quickly adjust vector as well as pixel masks here should help to make vector masking more popular. Again, though, the awkward, modal design of the new panel compromises its effectiveness.

Raw power

Photographers will welcome the upgraded *Camera Raw* 5, invoked via *Photoshop* or *Bridge* to pre-process shots from serious digital cameras. The interface still feels a bit unfinished, but there are some great new features inherited from *Lightroom* 2. A full range

of adjustments can be brushed on, and there's a gradient filter to add shading and vignettes. New Camera Profiles can boost images with Adobe's enhanced colour rendering or match the appearance you'd get with the camera's own software.

There are good additions in this release, including some, inevitably, that we haven't had room to mention. But it doesn't feel such a big step forward as CS3. As an application, *Photoshop* is still the proud leader in a field of one; as an upgrade, it'll leave many users comparing the price tag with the feature list.

Tom Salingier

THE TOP THREE | Photoshop CS4's best bits

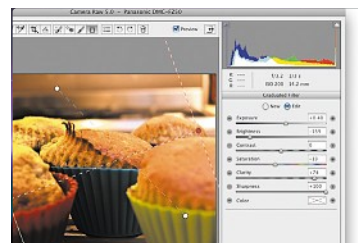
The Adjustments panel

The Adjustments panel looks like a dog's breakfast, but offers a convenient way to apply tonal corrections non-destructively. As well as making Adjustment Layers more accessible, it avoids you having to open and close dialog boxes to apply or edit them.



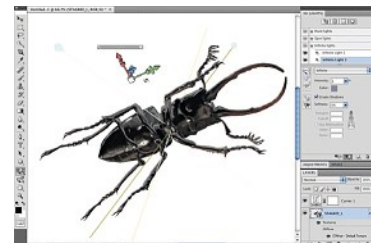
Adobe Camera Raw

CS4 incorporates the latest version of Adobe's *Camera Raw* module, used to pre-process images from DSLRs before editing them in *Photoshop*. New features include various gradient filters to add light and shade and the ability to directly brush on adjustments, thereby offering more control.



3D model manipulation

You can create simple 3D models within *Photoshop*, or import complex ones. Here we've loaded a model of a stag beetle, complete with textures, into a 3D layer. We can control the way it's rendered, turn it around in space, and add Adjustment Layers to the shape to recolour it.



PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHING PLATFORM

Adobe InDesign CS4 (beta)

£691; upgrade, £181 We proof Adobe's layout package – has it expanded the frame or cut it to fit?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11, G5 or Intel multi-core,
512MB of RAM (1GB recommended), 1.6GB
disk space (plus more during install),
1,024x768 display (1,280x800
recommended), 16-bit video card,
QuickTime 7 for multimedia features

FOR AND AGAINST

- Smart Guides are a great layout aid
- Live Preflight saves hassle
- Rotate View can be a godsend
- Flash export opens up possibilities
- No stunning new features this time
- Expensive as a standalone product

VERDICT

★★★★★
“A superbly usable publishing package with a few extra boxes ticked for its fourth iteration.”

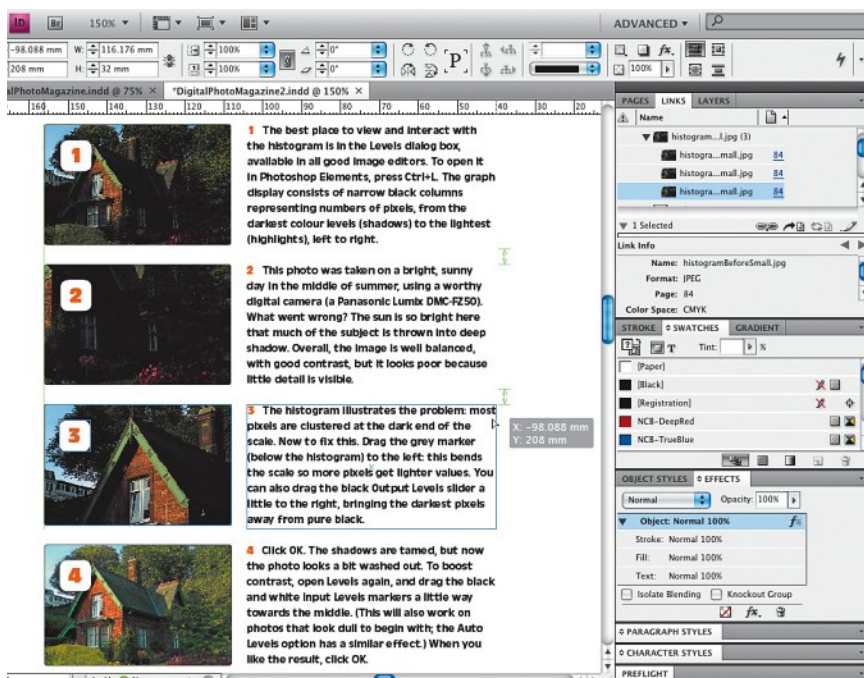
It's easier to edit tricky layouts thanks to Rotate View and the ability to open table content in the Story Editor.

Despite the desktop publishing aspirations of Microsoft Word and Apple's Pages, you need a different league of software to create magazines, brochures and other content for press output. *InDesign* has become the leader in this field, but its rival, *QuarkXPress*, has seen a dangerous return to form in version 8.

If ever a program didn't need an interface update, it was *InDesign CS3*. Fortunately, the changes – besides the optional Application Frame – are largely cosmetic. However, the new preset workspace options, starting with Essential, are all (going by our test copy) a bit useless, so you'll have to spend a while rearranging panels to suit.

Smart Guides

Illustrator's Smart Guides have been much coveted by *InDesign* users, and are finally here. Green guides appear when the item you're dragging matches the position, rotation or spacing of others. This is a lovely quick way of imposing some order. Smart Guides also appear when you're using the preview cursor, or 'place gun', introduced in CS3, making it easy to size, position and rotate a new picture to match others. Clicking with $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}$ pressed also arranges multiple placed images into a grid. This



Smart Guides help align and space items interactively. Current position is shown at the cursor as you drag.

is very well done, except for one glaring fault: you can't ensure the grid spaces are the right shape for the images, even if they all match.

Rotate View lets you temporarily turn your artwork

Live Preflight is a simple but revolutionary new feature. Previously, File > Preflight would check your document against a list of potential print cock-ups, such as low-res images or wrong colour

correctly defaults to the middle of a double-page spread without screwing up on single pages. When you right-click a placed item to edit it, you can choose which application it opens in. The Pathfinder panel gains buttons to open, close and reverse paths. And you can output data-merged documents as PDFs rather than *InDesign* files.

“Illustrator's Smart Guides have been much coveted by InDesign users, and are finally here”

in 90 degree increments. This is incredibly useful for editing rotated elements, whether landscape tables in books or side panels on packaging.

There are a few text handling additions. Nested styles, which let you automatically vary text formatting within a paragraph, can now apply to a number of lines as well as a number of words. Conditional Text lets you set alternative tagged versions of words or phrases anywhere in text and choose which version is output, which looks handy for things like varying prices in a catalogue.

Pages can now be exported to Flash, supported by the ability to add buttons, links and page transitions. It's no substitute for an interactive design application, but useful if you're producing documents that you also want to deliver online. Both existing SWF and new XFL formats are offered.

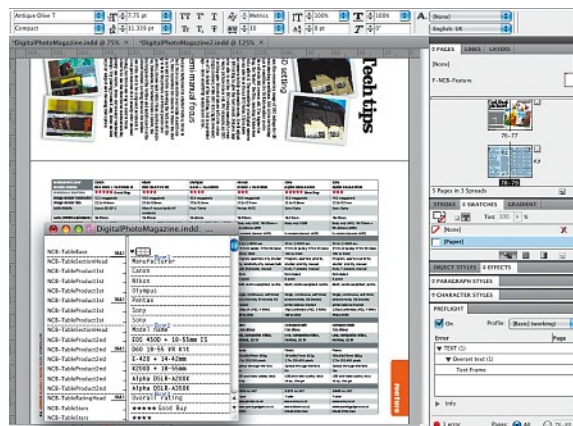
Some items on our wish list have been ticked off. The origin for rulers and grids now

Fixed expression

Other omissions remain, such as a History panel for the app's unlimited undo, better control over grids and guides, and Preferences changes that apply without clicking OK.

Despite a few excellent additions, this feels like a tidy-up release. If you need Flash export, that'll be reason to upgrade, though there's scope for a lot more functionality. Otherwise, *InDesign CS4* can certainly stand up to *Quark*, but is only slightly more realistically priced, and in danger of resting on its laurels.

Tom Salinger



VECTOR DRAWING SOFTWARE

Adobe Illustrator CS4 (beta)

£563; upgrade, £181 It's not bad, it's just drawn that way

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X v10.4.11, G5 or Intel, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended), 2GB disk space (plus more during install), 1024x768 display, 16-bit video card

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✚ Multiple artboards increase flexibility
- ✚ Blob brush works well
- ✚ Transparency within gradients
- ✖ No Rotate View
- ✖ No zoom improvements
- ✖ Horrendously expensive

VERDICT

★★★★★

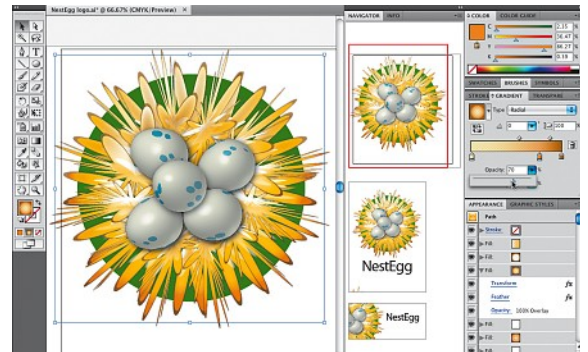
"Could have done with a more impressive update, but this is still a competent package."

You're either into Bézier drawing or you're not, and many CS4 users won't touch *Illustrator*. This upgrade offers little comfort to vector virgins, but a few new tricks for old-timers.

The most obvious is support for multiple artboards. Although this can be used for multipage documents, it's better for including, say, all the elements of a corporate identity in one file. Artboards may be of different sizes, and can be nested to lay out multiple items on a large sheet. When exporting to PDF, you can create a single file or one for each artboard. This is all good, but Macromedia *FreeHand* offered multiple pages years ago, before Adobe killed it off.

Just as significant is the ability to adjust the transparency of colour stops within a gradient fill. This avoids the need for fiddly workarounds that previously hampered creative effects. The very useful new **Blob** brush draws a filled vector shape rather than a stroke.

The Appearance panel links more attributes directly to panels where you can edit them, and you can apply more than one Graphic Style to each object for complex styling. You can also preview colour separations and overprinting, but honestly this was overdue. There's no **Rotate View**, though, and when you zoom in to a graphic (the old-fashioned way), *Illustrator* – unlike *InDesign* – ignores the



Multiple artboards can be arranged as you like. Colours within gradients have their own transparency.

current selection, which may go out of view altogether.

We didn't see any significant bugs in this version, but performance overall was disappointing, with complex artwork still previewing slowly on a 3GHz Intel iMac.

Illustrator is a great drawing program, and arguably the professional choice, but we can't get excited about this upgrade. Still, serious users will want it for multiple artboards and gradient transparency. **Tom Salinger**

PDF CREATION SOFTWARE

Adobe Acrobat 9 Pro (beta)

£470; upgrade, £182 Now jumps your content through even more hoops

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X v10.4.11, G5 or Intel, 256MB RAM (512MB recommended), 1.42GB disk space, 1024x768 display

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✚ More multimedia capabilities
- ✚ Enhanced pre-press controls
- ✚ PDF Portfolios could be useful
- ✚ Great collaboration features
- ✖ No interface improvements
- ✖ Expensive as a standalone product

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A great tool within CS4, but wincingly expensive by itself. Corporate customers only."

Acrobat Pro is included with *CS4 Design Standard*, *Design Premium* and *Web Premium*. Its job is to create, edit and share PDFs originating from the other CS4 apps or from scratch. PDF is obviously becoming an increasingly flexible format.

Differing from its CS4 companions, *Acrobat* keeps its own user interface. A new **Multimedia** menu houses the **Flash Tool**, which lets you add *Flash* files to any PDF; *Flash* playback is built into both *Acrobat 9 Pro* and the free *Acrobat 9 Reader*. You can also import other multimedia files, such as MOV video, which are automatically converted.

A PDF can bring different kinds of document into one, but if you just want to deliver

separate documents tidily, the new **PDF Portfolio** feature can help. Your recipient will access the files from a self-running *Flash*-based browser, for which various templates are supplied. For example, **Revolve** looks a bit like Apple's *Cover Flow*. The results look more professional than emailing a zip file.

A new **Collaborate** menu goes further than the **Share My Screen** option elsewhere in CS4, using Adobe's www.adobe.com to let you upload files for other users, allowing you to access a file at the same time as a remote colleague, turning pages and zooming to show each other items.

If you use *Acrobat* to check and tweak *InDesign* output on the way to press, there are several useful enhancements



Eschewing the new CS4 user interface, *Acrobat* gains features including PDF Portfolios.

in this version. **Overprint Preview** is now smarter and integrated into **Output Preview**, which also gains an **Object Inspector** that tells you all about any page item, including the effective resolution of an image.

Acrobat also has an **Extended** edition aimed at business and technical users and, like the cut-down *Standard* edition, is only available for Windows. For those who need *Pro*, version 9 is a significant upgrade. **Tom Salinger**

WEB DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Adobe Dreamweaver CS4 (beta)

£394; upgrade from £163 Can the king of web design applications retain its crown?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11+ or 10.5.4+, G5 or Intel processor, 512MB RAM, 1.8GB hard drive space, 1,280x800 display

FOR AND AGAINST

- More efficient, usable interface
- Subversion integration
- Useful HTML Data Sets feature
- Related Files feature is great...
- ...but doesn't always work
- Expensive compared to the competition

VERDICT

★★★★★

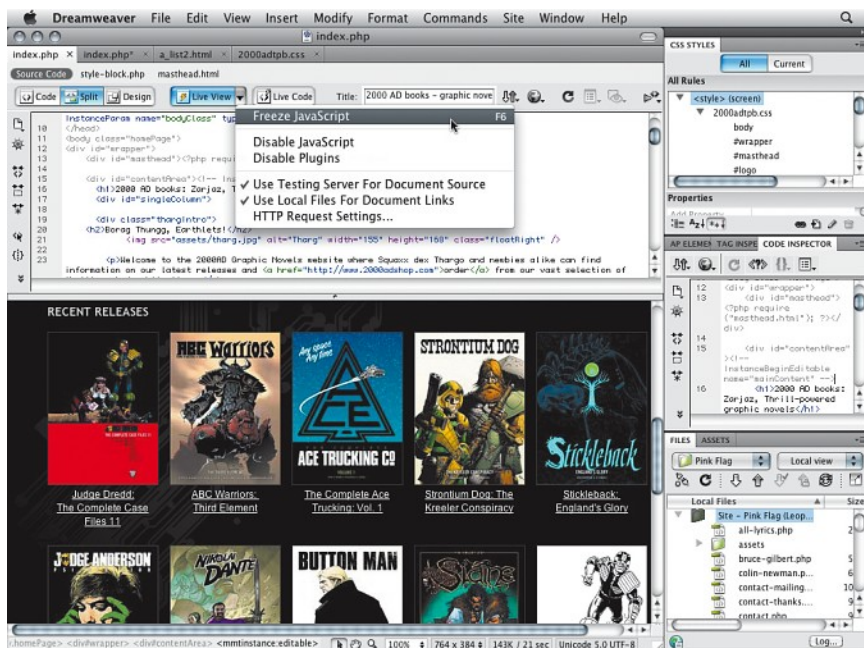
"Another refinement rather than an essential upgrade, and Dreamweaver's starting to look costly and bloated when compared to the competition."

Almost since its inception, *Dreamweaver* has been a leader in the web design space, and it's outlasted the likes of *GoLive* and *FrontPage*. However, *Dreamweaver CS3* made us question whether the application had anything left to say, since the update was hardly mind-blowing – more a refinement. And in the face of competition from the likes of *Coda* and *Freeway*, it's clear *Dreamweaver CS4* must impress for Adobe's giant to retain its position.

Design refresh

On a positive note, *Dreamweaver* is one of the few *CS4* applications to really benefit from Adobe's UI makeover. Although there's inconsistency throughout (the *Design Notes* dialog seemingly stuck in an Aqua time-war) revised tabs and 'stashable' palettes are a big plus, maximising screen real estate for your work and enhancing the app's usability. Usefully, *Dreamweaver* ships with eight clearly considered pre-defined workspace layouts, which cater for coders, designers and app developers.

In terms of use, *Dreamweaver* hasn't had a massive overhaul, but subtle changes are immediately apparent when you start working. On opening a web



Dreamweaver's new Live View aims to deal with Design view's shortcomings, although it's buggier than we'd like.

"Despite the advances, we're unsure whether Dreamweaver has a place in the modern web design world"

page, the new **Related Files** feature provides single-click access to related files, such as JavaScript documents and style sheets. Although said files can still be opened individually, the **Related Files** bar provides an efficient means of working on documents with dependencies. Elsewhere, the **Code Navigator** (accessed by ⌘+⌘-clicking an item in **Design View**) provides rapid access to style elements.

The problem with these features is that they don't always work. If you've designed your site in a certain way – linking directly to related files from your document's head section – you're fine. But if your use includes inserting a style block into your website's documents, *Dreamweaver* isn't intelligent enough to cascade downwards, and so the **Related Files** bar doesn't

display the style sheets and scripts it links to, and the **Code Navigator** doesn't jump to styles you click. Since modern developers increasingly work in a modular fashion, this is a glaring oversight and suggests *Dreamweaver* is once again becoming more relevant for people trying to do things the easy way, via drag and drop.

A better view

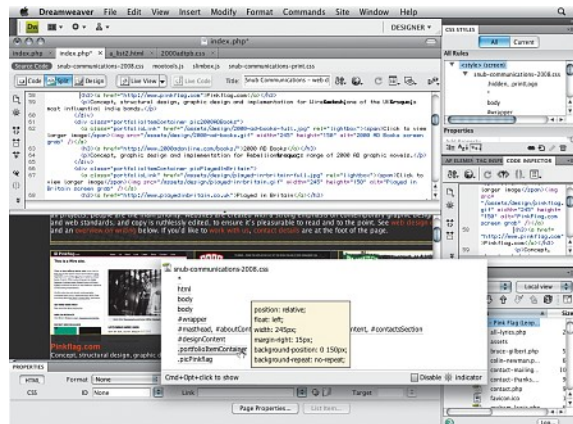
Flaws also exist in *Dreamweaver*'s new **Live View**. This shoe-horns a fully rendered page display into *Dreamweaver*, saving you opening up a browser to preview your site, and enabling you to select elements and have them highlighted in **Code View**. The cynic in us wonders if this view is an attempt to deal with **Design View** still inaccurately rendering web pages, and our realist side notes how **Live**

View essentially turns *Dreamweaver* into a beefed-up *Coda* – only Panic's application is substantially cheaper, more user-friendly, faster and has a fully rendered preview.

Some of the other updates are more successful. The **Properties** panel now offers HTML and CSS modes, and while it's annoyingly mouse-centric, it streamlines workflow for when you're working on a specific technology. Also, new **HTML Data Sets** are great, enabling you to rapidly create an interactive data source, all via a simple dialog box.

Despite these advances, we're unsure whether *Dreamweaver* has a place in the modern web design world. Even new **Subversion** integration might not be enough to tempt studios, due to the cost of upgrading, and the flawed nature of some of the new features makes them irrelevant. As for newcomers, we recommend thinking carefully whether you need all of *Dreamweaver*'s features. **Craig Grannell**

The **Code Navigator** enables you to jump to CSS rules applied to an element – when it works.



WEB PROTOTYPING TOOL AND IMAGE EDITOR

Adobe Fireworks CS4 (beta)

£276; upgrade from £140 Adobe's web prototyping app gets an ugly makeover and new export tools

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11+ or 10.5.4+, G5 or Intel processor, 512MB RAM, 1GB hard drive space, 1,024x768 display

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✚ Handy PDF export function
- ✚ Smart guides and better type handling
- ✚ Live 4-Up preview still impresses
- ✖ Visually hideous, clunky interface
- ✖ Minor problems with PSD import
- ✖ No real must-have new features

VERDICT

★★★★★

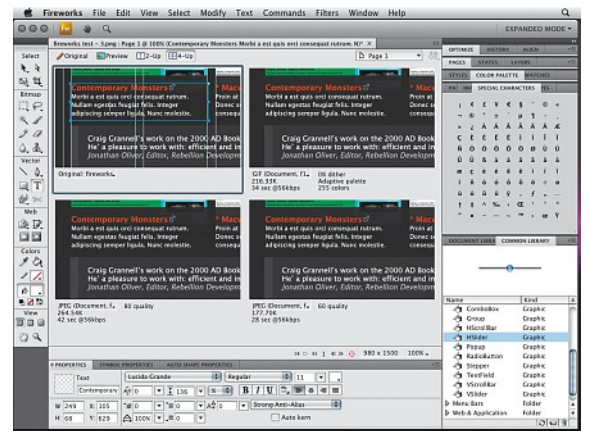
"Not enough new features to justify upgrading from CS3, but worth a look for newcomers."

Fireworks CS3 was a revelation. In one fell swoop, Adobe transformed Fireworks from a Photoshop wannabe to a prototyping tool for web designers, offering a raft of new workflow features.

The most obvious change to Fireworks CS4 is the interface, which showcases the best and worst of interface design. Adobe's non-standard window widgets make the application look shoddy and cheap and slows things down. The Application bar is a waste of space and confusingly duplicates tools from the toolbar, but uses different icons. However, the streamlined palettes work nicely, and the Application Window model works better

with Fireworks than Photoshop – just as well since palettes overlap when you turn it off. Overall, Fireworks CS4 feels less robust than its predecessor.

Most other changes appear centred around pinching things from other Adobe applications and updating export functionality. Of the former, Illustrator-like smart guides assist with positioning elements, and type handling is improved a little, although Photoshop-like fields for font selection via typing would be nice. Getting PSD files into Fireworks is still hit-and-miss, but the new PDF export feature is impressive, enabling you to create an offline site prototype that a client can then comment on using the likes of Acrobat. We didn't find



The love-it-or-hate-it Fireworks user interface revamp... we hate it.

the new CSS export feature nearly as solid, however, and our dreams of one-touch export of standards-based websites were left in tatters.

As a new purchase, Fireworks CS4 has much to recommend it, but CS3 users should wait for Fireworks CS5. Craig Grannell

MULTIMEDIA AND ANIMATION TOOL

Adobe Flash CS4 Professional (beta)

£575; upgrade from £163 The multimedia authoring tool returns with a slew of new features for animators

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11+ or 10.5.4+, G5 or Intel processor, 1GB RAM, 4GB hard drive space, 1,024x768 display, QuickTime 7.1.2+

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✚ Intuitive object-based animation
- ✚ Inverse kinematics tool
- ✚ Motion Editor for fine-tuning
- ✚ Mostly superior workspace
- ✖ A bit buggy and sluggish
- ✖ Expensive when not upgrading

VERDICT

★★★★★

"More a re-imagining than a typical update, this is a worthy purchase for animators."

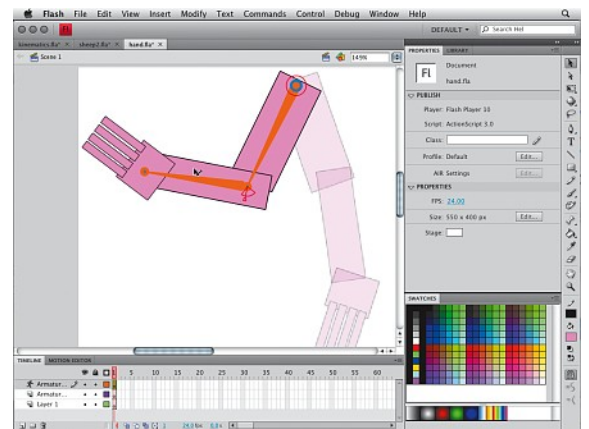
Unlike Adobe's other web-oriented products in CS4, Flash brings major changes, from the way the entire interface is presented through to the way in which certain animations are created.

Whereas previous Flash upgrades aimed to snare programmers and developers, this update's one for the animators. Right away, long-time users will note how the stage and timeline have switched positions. Rather than mess about with keyframes and timelines (although you can still do so using older methods), Flash promotes intuitive object-based animation: [Ctrl]-click on an item, select **Create Motion Tween** and drag a path for

your object. The path remains fully editable via Illustrator-like Bézier curves.

Elsewhere, inverse kinematics can be applied to objects, enabling animators to create rag-doll-like figures or chain-like animations in relatively little time. And while the new 3D transformation tools aren't the stuff of wonder, they provide a means of animating 2D objects through 3D space with little effort.

Those hankering for more control can explore the impressive new Motion Editor. This panel smacks of After Effects and displays a tween's (or span's) attributes, thereby providing a huge degree of control for fine-tuning motion, rotation, transformation, effects and filters.



Flash's new Bone tool enables you to rapidly create animation with inverse kinematics.

A handful of additional features such as an Illustrator-like spray brush and H.264 support add to the goodies pile. Only the high price, slight

sluggishness and bugginess, and nasty proprietary interface elements taint an otherwise impressive Flash update. Craig Grannell

PROFESSIONAL DESIGN APPLICATIONS

Adobe Creative Suite 4 Design Premium

£1,447; upgrade, £667 The top creative software bundle gets a makeover

CONTACT INFO

Developer Adobe
www.adobe.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/477203

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

See individual reviews

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Covers all aspects of print and web design
- ⊕ Good integration between programs
- ⊕ You may like the new interface
- ⊕ Suite saves money on multiple apps...
- ⊖ ...but it's still quite pricey
- ⊖ Some apps haven't moved on much

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Not a giant leap for Adobe, but generally a step in the right direction."

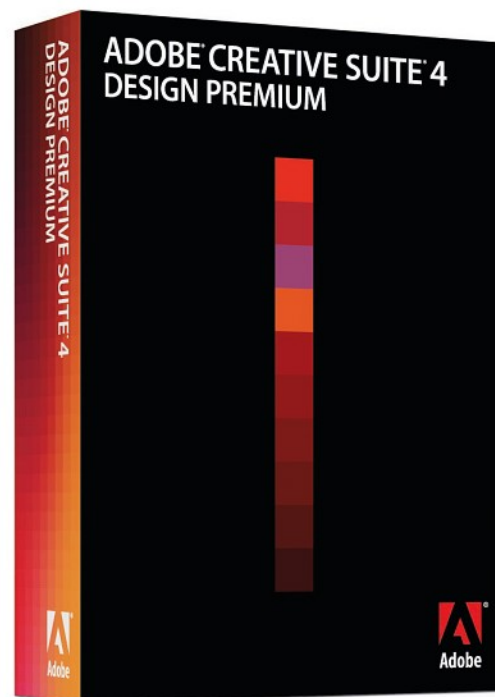
They're not the only choices for designers, but Adobe's applications are among the best, and no other company can offer such a comprehensive range. The *Creative Suite* brings them together in one box, or rather a choice of six boxes. These range from *Web Standard*, which includes *Flash*, *Dreamweaver*, *Fireworks* and *Contribute* for around £820, to the *Master Collection*, which adds Adobe's pro video apps – *Premiere Pro*, *After Effects*, *Soundbooth*, *OnLocation* and *Encore*, together a powerful rival to Apple's *Final Cut Studio* – to the full set of print and web design tools for £2,275.

Design Premium

Design Premium has the broadest appeal. This comprises *Photoshop*, *InDesign*, *Illustrator*, *Flash*, *Dreamweaver* and *Fireworks* (but for some reason not *Contribute*, the web content editor). Like all the suites, it also includes *Device Central*, which helps you create

and test multimedia content for mobile phones and other gizmos; *Version Cue*, for central management of files used by creative teams; and *Bridge*, an integrated file browser.

Most of the applications share a common user interface, which has been completely redesigned. Instead of toolbars and palettes (or panels, as Adobe calls them) floating around your screen, they're all contained within a window, the Application Frame. Documents appear in tabs, rather like tabbed web pages in *Safari*. We suspect this may be the way of the future; it feels weird at first, but it's easier to manage. The Application Bar at the top is harder to defend, awkwardly combining options that are duplicated elsewhere, and we're uneasy about Adobe introducing its own user interface elements into Mac OS X. But the Application Frame and/or tabs can be turned off, and there are more ways than ever to customise everything.



Bridge, though easily overlooked, is rather good at previewing lots of files quickly. It's also very easy to customise the workspace and switch between different arrangements for different tasks; this is true of the other apps, too, with varying degrees of usefulness.

Adobe's quoted retail price for *Creative Suite 4 Design Premium* is £1,467, compared to \$1,799 in the US. Even knocking off the VAT, UK users are paying 20% extra. *Design Premium* does include the Extended version of *Photoshop* (see page 86) you can pay about £450 less for *Design*

"Adobe's applications are among the best, and no other company can offer such a comprehensive range"

A new File > Share My Screen command, available throughout CS4, links to Adobe's ConnectNow service, which lets other users (whether on Macs or PCs) see what's on your screen, in real time. You can annotate the display and use built-in text chat and webcam support. The remote image doesn't update quite fast enough for live demos, with just over a second's delay, but this could be really useful for discussing and presenting work.

Standard if you can live without this and the web apps.

Steep prices

Overall, *Creative Suite* seems expensive for the small studio or freelance designer, and the upgrade pricing is steep. We'd like to see prices lowered.

Nonetheless, you're getting a feature-packed set of pro apps, and while it may not be an essential, *Creative Suite 4* is the obvious choice for anyone who's serious about design.

Tom Salinger

CREATIVE SUITE 4 | Different packages

	Design Premium	Design Standard	Web Premium	Web Standard	Production Premium	Master Collection
COMPONENTS						
InDesign	✓	✓				✓
Photoshop Extended	✓		✓		✓	✓
Photoshop		✓				
Illustrator	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Acrobat 9 Pro	✓	✓	✓			✓
Flash Professional	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Dreamweaver	✓		✓	✓		✓
Fireworks	✓		✓	✓		✓
Contribute			✓	✓		✓
After Effects					✓	✓
Premiere					✓	✓
Soundbooth			✓		✓	✓
OnLocation					✓	✓
Encore					✓	✓
SHARED FEATURES, SERVICES, AND APPLICATIONS						
Bridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Device Central	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dynamic Link					✓	✓
Version Cue	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

* Adobe *OnLocation CS4* and *Encore CS4* are only included with the *Creative Suite 4 Production Premium* and *Master Collection* packages, or with the individual purchase of Adobe *Premiere Pro*.

WEBSITE IN A BOX

Mr Site Takeaway Website Beginner

£24 boxed; £20 download An entry-level website creator with basic features and a year's hosting package

CONTACT INFO

Developer Mr Site
www.mrsite.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476670

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac or PC with either Internet Explorer 7 or above, Mozilla Firefox 2 or above, Safari 2 or above

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Very easy to operate
- ⊕ Instantly ready for accepting payments
- ⊕ A very cheap solution
- ⊖ You need to pay to migrate your URL away
- ⊖ You're limited to its templates
- ⊖ Browser-based, not standalone app

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Great solution to build and host a website for non-coders. Well worth a try!"

Takeaway Website Beginner joins Mr Site's Standard and Pro packages as its new entry-level offering. It uses the same back-end tools and templates that all of Mr Site's websites are built with, except with a lower price and thinner feature-set to match.

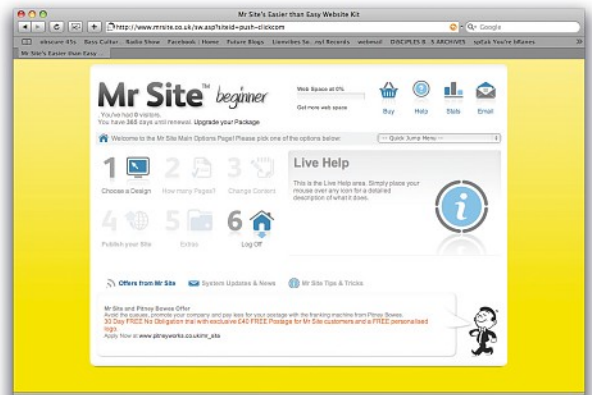
We know some among you are professional web designers, but we also know that many of you don't know your HTML from your elbow, so this one should appeal to you.

With Takeaway Website Beginner you get five web pages, five email addresses, 75MB of web space and 2GB bandwidth, which is fine to kick things off.

Each box gives you a serial key to log into Mr Site's website, through which all the

building is done. Just choosing from a checklist of templates, colours and features builds the site, and you get to choose your own web address. You can re-enter and change things around at a later stage and wait as long as you like before you publish the site. Where Mr Site does well is the pre-coded elements that you can drop into your websites to make them appear more weighty.

You can add elements like image galleries, shopping carts, a blog, photo gallery (with watermarking), PayPal payment buttons, music players and contact forms. Mr Site does all the coding for you – you just select the elements you want. You can customise the appearance of the site by adding your own photos and



If you want to build a website but don't know how, Mr Site Takeaway Website Beginner is for you.

graphics into the templates, and even the backgrounds.

The package includes all hosting costs for a year and you can migrate your site away from Mr Site for a small charge.

We struggle to think of an easier way of building a website, but it doesn't offer the flexibility of programs like iWeb and RapidWeaver.

James Ellerbeck

ARCHIVE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT UTILITY

SmithMicro Software Stuffit Deluxe 2009

\$80 (£46) This archiving suite makes everything smaller – except its price

CONTACT INFO

Developer SmithMicro Software
www.smithmicro.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/478551

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4 or newer (OX 10.5, MacFUSE and Growl required for certain functions), 40 MB of disk space

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Quick Look integration
- ⊕ Archives mountable as disks
- ⊕ Spotlight integration
- ⊕ Large number of supported formats
- ⊕ Multiple DropStuff preferences
- ⊖ We think it's too expensive

VERDICT

★★★★★

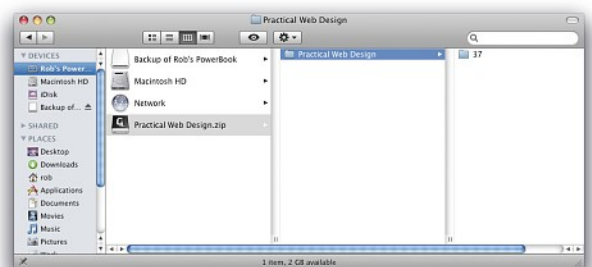
"With hard drive space cheaper than ever, Stuffit's tools are a luxury most can do without."

Ever since Smith Micro bought Stuffit Deluxe, it has been making the famous archive creation and management tool look better and better. Stuffit Deluxe 2009, able to handle everything from its own .sit and multi-featured .sitx formats through .zip, .rar and internet faves .uu, .hqx and .bin, is undoubtedly the best yet, thanks to a variety of improvements.

The usual group of programs is still there, some with a makeover: Stuffit Archive Manager helps you locate, manage, view and decompress the archives on your hard drives using Spotlight; Expander is a simple tool for drag-and-drop expansion of archives; DropStuff for creating archives; MagicMenu and a

contextual menu plug-in allow you to compress and expand archives without launching any programs; and SEA Maker lets you create archives that self-expand. There are other features, such as Automator plug-ins and command line tools, that help power users with their workflows, too.

New in 2009 for Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard users is Quick Look integration, so you can see inside an archive's contents in Finder, Time Machine and Mail, for example, without having to expand it (although it didn't seem to work so well with .rar archives). By installing Google's free MacFUSE file system implementation mechanism (<http://code.google.com/p/macfuse/>), you can mount archives as disks in



You can now mount archives as disks in Finder, but only if you install Google's MacFUSE first.

Finder so that you can browse them, save to them and extract files from them as though they were a hard drive; the interface isn't instantly obvious, though.

You can now create different preferences for DropStuff with different drag zones, so you can drag files to different areas of DropStuff and have them compressed appropriately.

There's also support for scheduling compressed backups to your iDisk.

And if all of this cost £20 or £30, it would be worth it. But at \$80 (£46; £18 to upgrade), and cheap storage the full Stuffit Deluxe 2009 is a luxury the vast majority of people can afford to be without.

Rob Buckley

VIRTUALISATION SOFTWARE

VMware Fusion 2.0

\$80 (£46) Run Windows in a window with VMware's industry-leading virtualisation software

CONTACT INFO

Developer VMware
www.vmware.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/476703

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.11+, an Intel Mac

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ User-friendly and robust
- ⊕ Excellent sharing options
- ⊕ Improved snapshots
- ⊕ Doesn't hammer system resources
- ⊕ First-rate multi-display support
- ⊖ Minor bugs and niggles

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Some quirks stop it getting top marks, but Fusion 2 is nonetheless the best way for most people to run Windows on a Mac."

Intelligent shortcut mapping is a real plus in *Fusion*, making hopping between Windows and Mac apps easy.

Virtualisation software enables you to run multiple operating systems on your Mac at the same time. Unlike Apple's free *Boot Camp* solution it doesn't require you to reboot the Mac when you want to switch system. *VMware Fusion* and *Parallels Desktop* have battled for supremacy in virtualisation on the Mac, and Sun's *VirtualBox* is trying to mount a challenge of its own. However, with *Fusion 2*, we think VMware has raised the bar, building on its already strong foundations with indispensable new features.

Why Windows?

You might be wondering why anyone would want to run Windows on a Mac, but for the unfortunate minority, Microsoft's operating system clings on, like a particularly determined leech. For example, office workers rely on business software unavailable for Macs and web designers need *Internet Explorer* for testing websites in. And while *Boot Camp* provides Leopard users with a dual-boot solution, switching back and forth between Windows and OS X by rebooting your Mac

isn't practical if you regularly need to work with software on both systems.

Fusion's ability to run multiple operating systems simultaneously isn't unique, but it's certainly the best implementation we've seen. Purists might argue that performance takes a hit (and

Safari when idling in the background. Or, to put it another way, we actually forgot we had *Fusion* running in the background – for three whole days. This shows how little impact it has on OS X.

If you've heard or experienced horror stories with Windows, you'll be

"Fusion is snappy, responsive and well-behaved, taking up fewer resources than Safari when idling"

they'd be right – our tests indicate that *VMware Fusion 2* benchmarks are roughly two-thirds of running Windows via *Boot Camp*, although *Fusion's* new ability to utilise multiple CPUs helps things along), but in general use you probably won't notice this, unless you're running games, which isn't a great idea anyway – despite *Fusion's* improved DirectX 9.0 support, games often run slowly or fail entirely.

The application is snappy, responsive and well-behaved, taking up fewer resources than

pleased to know that installations via *Fusion 2* are typically a breeze. You can install a guest operating system via a disk, a disk image, or by attaching an existing virtual disk. In all cases, *Fusion* aims to deal with OS system settings, largely based on your Mac's settings, so the chances are you won't have to fiddle with your new virtual machine prior to booting it. This thinking extends to Linux systems as well – tests with Ubuntu went very well, with *Fusion* going so far as to pick

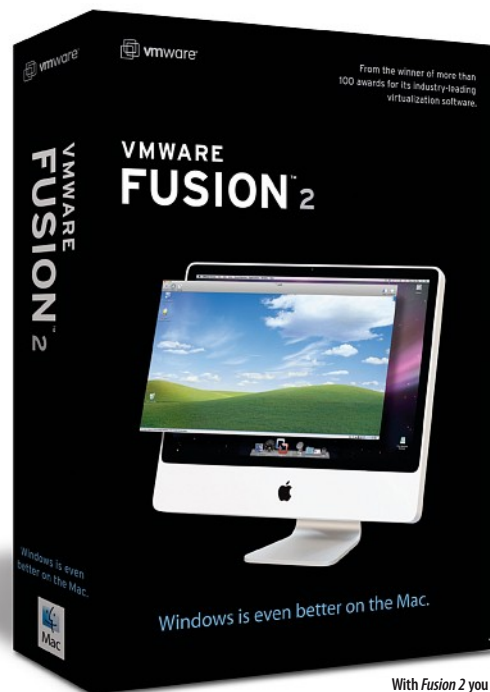
up which specific distribution was being installed.

Should you already have a PC – virtual or otherwise – *Fusion* provides tools to help migrate data. During our tests, *VMware Importer*, designed to convert *Parallels Desktop* data, failed miserably, but *VMware Converter*, a tool for migrating data from a real Windows PC, worked flawlessly, saving us the hassle of reinstalling our Windows applications and data. Note that VMware provides a step-by-step video tutorial on its website if you need reassurance regarding the steps to take.

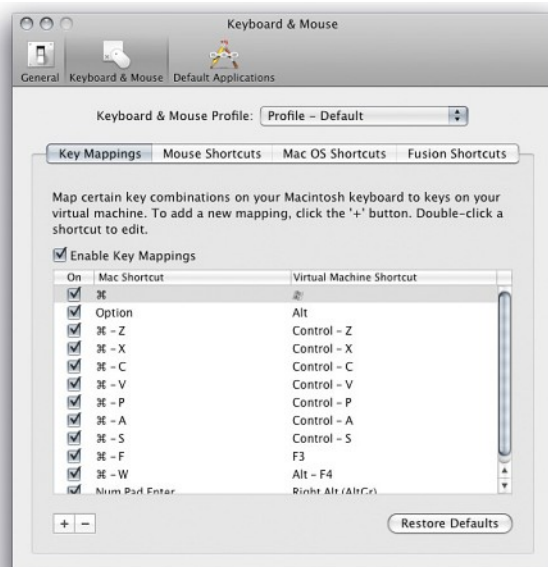
Shared data

Configuration-wise, we had little to do during our Windows installs. Our printer was automatically found (and worked), as were other attached devices. An exception is for shared data, which requires a trip to the **Sharing** section of the beautifully laid out **Settings** panel. Here, you define which folders to share on your Mac, enabling you to drag documents from *Finder* to guest system applications. This is important, because omitting this step seems to force *Fusion* to rely on temporary files, which don't work very well.

The **Sharing** pane also highlights two new and tremendously useful features. The first is mirrored folders, enabling you to mirror your **Desktop**, **Documents**, **Music** and **Pictures** folders with their Windows equivalents. (In practice, this appears to turn the likes of **My Documents** in Windows into an alias to your Mac's **Documents** folder.) The second feature is shared applications, which enables you to define whether your Mac can open applications on your virtual machine and vice versa, along with providing the means to set default applications for dealing with email and web links.



With *Fusion 2* you can run Windows in an OS X environment.



THE INTERFACE | Find your way around VMware Fusion 2

Suspend and start-up

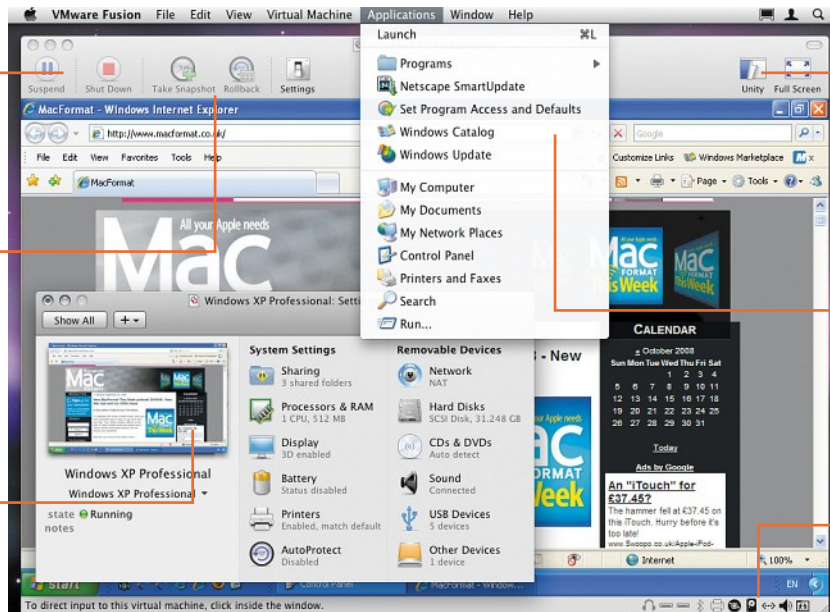
Although you can shut down your virtual machine, you can suspend it and restart from where you left off upon relaunching Fusion. Easy.

Snapshots and rollbacks

The Take Snapshot and Rollback buttons provide quick access to restore points, so a bad install won't wreck your virtual machine.

Settings preferences

Click Settings and the depicted Settings dialog appears, providing user-friendly and straightforward access to configuration settings.



Unity

Click the Unity button and guest application windows appear like Mac ones. View > Exit Unity returns you to windowed mode.

Applications menu

The Applications menu provides quick access to guest applications and components. A similar menu is located in Fusion's Dock icon.

Status bar

The optional status bar enables you to configure peripherals, and provides a visual indication of when such things are in use.

On running a virtual machine itself (and therefore Fusion 'proper'), the first thing that struck us was how Mac-like the experience is. That might sound odd with Fusion running the likes of Windows XP, but the care that's gone into Fusion is obvious. Its toolbars are clean and clearly labelled, and everything works like you'd expect – without you having to do anything.

System Unity

Although each virtual machine appears in a window by default (the size of which can be changed via the standard drag handle, or by defining the resolution size using the guest operating system's display settings), other options exist. Click the **Full Screen** button and the virtual machine fills your monitor. Alternatively, there's **Unity**, which integrates guest applications directly into your Mac workflow. Guest operating system windows have drop-shadows, like their Mac counterparts, active guest application icons appear in the Dock, and Exposé is supported. Only alien window designs and some sluggish redraws betray guest windows in Unity as not being native.

Fusion 2 now also happily works with multiple displays. Although performance understandably suffers when

dragging a single window over two or more screens, we were pleased to note how Fusion automatically picked up an Apple display connected to our MacBook when we were in full-screen mode, without us having to do a thing.

Get protected

Another feature worthy of mention is Fusion 2's massively improved snapshots, used to create restore points. Previously, you got a miserly single snapshot per virtual machine. Now, you get as many as you want, and VMware's also added optional

'AutoProtect' snapshots, which are automatically grabbed every 30 minutes, hourly or daily, with a user-defined number of snapshots retained.

With Windows and various Linux distributions occasionally imploding when new software is installed, this new functionality is exciting, but it's the implementation that really makes it. Hit **Take Snapshot**, give your snapshot a name and description, and hit [Enter] – that's all there is to it. Click **Rollback** and you see all your previous snapshots, each of which can be restored or deleted with a single click. As

befitting an application that prides itself on ease of use, when you restore a snapshot, Fusion prompts to see whether you want your current guest system retained as a snapshot.

Fusion is remarkable. It feels so solid and robust (not least when compared to *Parallels Desktop*) that when occasional quirks and bugs appear (and they do, although rarely), it's a genuine shock. If you want to run Windows and Mac OS X, you'll find Fusion 2 is 50 quid well spent; and for existing users, the free upgrade makes updating a total no-brainer.

Craig Grannell

THE TOP THREE | The best bits of VMware Fusion 2.0

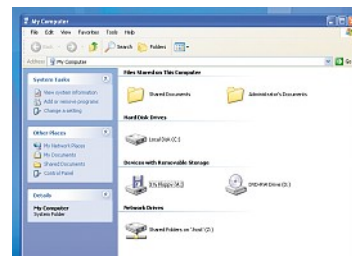
Snapshots

Mac OS X isn't bulletproof, but Windows is often susceptible to being wrecked by a bad application install. Multiple and automatic timed snapshots enable Fusion 2 users to 'protect' their virtual PC, rolling back to before problems began with just a few simple clicks.



Multiple displays

As of Fusion 2, multiple displays are fully supported, and a single VMware Fusion window can be dragged across multiple displays. In full-screen mode, the guest operating system picks up your display settings, enabling you to take advantage of a setup with two or more monitors.



Shared items

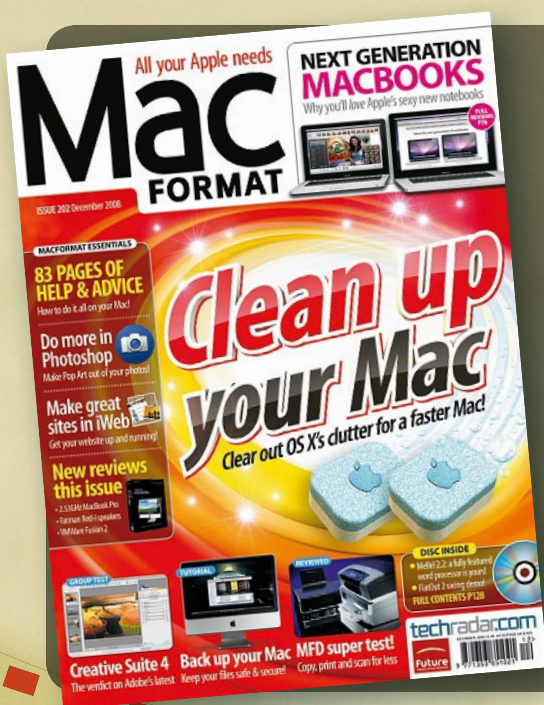
Integration between your Mac and guest system is strong in Fusion. You can share user-defined folders, and Fusion 2 enables you to mirror your Desktop, Documents, Music and Pictures folders. You can also open guest applications with your Mac and vice versa, encountering no issues in the process.



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iPhone apps

Christopher Phin picks out the very best software for the iPhone and iPod touch

SNIPPETS



EU may force replaceable batteries

According to a report on AppleInsider, new legislation is being considered by the EU that could make it easy to replace the batteries in iPods and iPhones. The current directive, introduced in 2006, requires that companies make it simple for consumers to properly dispose of and recycle batteries, but the new proposals could go even further, ensuring it's easy to switch out depleted cells. iPods and iPhones currently have non-replaceable batteries.



Apple embraces developers

Last month we mentioned how disaffected the iPhone app development community felt. What a difference a month makes; now, not only has Apple freed developers from the shackles of the non-disclosure agreement for released iPhone software – allowing developers to learn from each other and discuss how they've tackled any problems – but it has also taken Apple's own engineers on the road to meet and help the developers. Read more at <http://snipurl.com/4f1qp> and <http://snipurl.com/4f1rg>.

IPHONE APP OF THE MONTH

Color Expert



£5.99 Find the perfect colour mix in seconds

Designers across the world, rejoice! In fact, anyone who ever tries to use colour in their projects should rejoice, for the man behind the indispensable *Art Directors Toolkit* has released his first app for the iPhone.

It does two things. First, it's a reference library of colour swatches. You can choose between HTML or web-safe colours, or access coated and uncoated Pantone and Pantone Goe swatches. If you're anything like us, you'll be immediately suspicious of anything claiming to offer colour-accurate Pantone swatches on a

invited to spin around one 'anchor' colour, while others change in relation to that colour. You can pick the relationship – monochromatic, analogous, complementary, split complementary or triadic – and you can choose whether the colour wheel use the artistic red/yellow/blue or the scientific red/green/blue system. The result: four other colours that match and complement your anchor colour in different ways depending on what relationship you defined. You can then examine these colours – optionally matching them to Pantone equivalents – name them

“You can send a rich email through the iPhone's Mail app, sharing the scheme with your clients and colleagues”

display that hasn't been calibrated, but be prepared to be impressed. Viewed even under fluorescent lighting, the colours on-screen were very close to the chips in the reference swatches we placed next to them. Sure, you should check with a proper swatch book before pressing the final print button, but it proved plenty accurate enough on our test iPhone 3G for everything up to that stage. (Note that the original iPhone's screen has a cooler colour cast.)

The meat of the app, however, is the colour mixing stuff. You're presented with a colour wheel and

and save them. You can also send a rich email through the iPhone's *Mail* app, sharing the scheme with your clients and colleagues.

You can punch in RGB, Pantone or hex anchor values manually, or you can use the iPhone's camera to pick a colour. This last isn't a very accurate colour capture method, but it's good to have the option.

It's a beautifully designed app, too, though because it does so much, you may need the help system. There's also, currently, no support for CMYK, though the developer assures us that's in the pipeline for a later update.



VERDICT

★★★★★

“This is a feature-rich and very polished colour-picking app. It proved remarkably accurate as a Pantone library, too.”

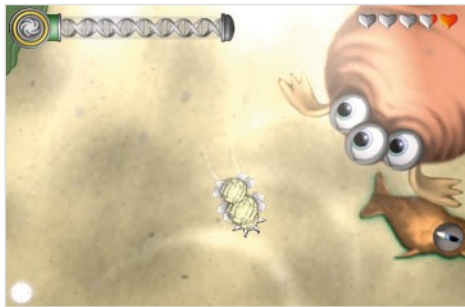
EVOLUTION GAME

Spore Origins

£5.99 Tinker with evolution on the fly

Spoore Origins isn't as ambitious a game as the one you can play on your Mac (see *MacFormat* November 2008, p125); you don't evolve your little creature out onto land, and there's no connection to the web to share your creations in the population of new worlds. No, *Spore Origins* is more suited to casual gaming. There are 30 levels in the main Evolution mode, and as you progress you can add defensive,

offensive, navigation and sensation upgrades to your little creature. The game is packed with charm, and it looks great, but it's not perfect. The calibration routine is handy, but it's still difficult to get it right, the gameplay can be repetitive, the last couple of levels are frustratingly much harder than previous ones, and we'd rather see a more comprehensive manual to explain things, such as how evolution points work.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A beautiful, fun game, but it lacks depth, and we'd like some clearer instructions."

IM & VOIP APP

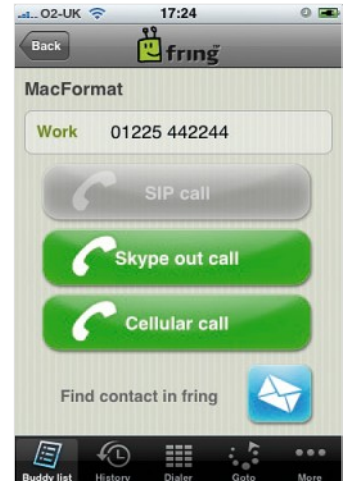
Fring

£FREE Consolidate your IM and SIP accounts

Hey, it's Skype on the iPhone! Actually, it's much more than that, but for us, that's the big news. *Fring* is a multi-protocol IM client (supporting *MSN Messenger*, *Google Talk*, *ICQ*, *Twitter*, *Yahoo!* and *AIM* connections) that also enables you to chat either by text or voice over the *Skype* network. If you use a SIP service for VoIP as well, it lets you hook into that; a slew are supported by default, but in theory you can hook into any SIP service.

It ain't a pretty app, and the consolidated buddy list-cum-address book is cumbersome. Sure, you can search, but the buddies for the different services aren't set apart.

The free *Skype*-to-*Skype* call stuff does work, though, and while we had glitches with some numbers, *SkypeOut* – the system that lets you cheaply call normal landlines – worked too. Voice calls are restricted to WiFi connections, however.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"Until Skype launches an official client, this is a decent solution. It's cumbersome, though."

AUCTION MANAGER

eBay Mobile

£FREE Keep track of your buying and selling

Though this app has been available in the States for some months, it's only recently that we've been able to download it in the UK. And boy, are we glad we can.

First, the bad news: you can't use it to create listings – something we'd like to have seen given the iPhone's built-in camera – and, perhaps more frustratingly, you can't use it to pay for items that you've won. This limitation is particularly irksome given that PayPal, the payment system many buyers would use, is owned by eBay.

Otherwise, it's a great way to browse and search eBay's auctions. Results can be filtered in the usual way, but primarily it's a way to keep track of auctions you're participating in, either as a buyer or seller. The home screen you see here gives you a handy summary of what you're buying and selling – just tap a button for a more detailed rundown of the auctions you're involved in. It couldn't be easier.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A handy way to keep tabs of buying and selling, but you can't pay or list."

ANIMATION TOOL

Kineo

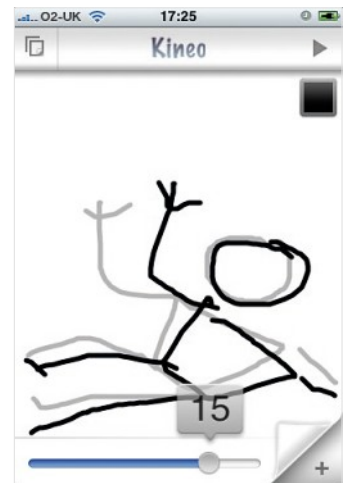
£2.99 Animate your finger masterpiece

There are dozens of sketching apps on the iPhone, but this one is a little bit different.

Remember flick books? Those little pads of paper that, on each sheet, you draw a slightly different picture; thumb through them quickly and it seems like your little drawings have come to life on the page.

This is the digital equivalent. Draw a picture on the screen using your finger, tap the turned-up page at the lower right to turn to a new page then draw the next picture, using the now greyed-out image from the previous page as a guide. You can flip through all your pages using the slider along the bottom, and tap the play icon to animate the series.

Drawing fine detail with your podgy finger is tricky, though the shake-to-undo feature is quite nice. While you can save animations, you can't export them; something for version 1.5, perhaps? ●



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A fun way to animate your doodles, though the lack of export options is frustrating."

Shareware

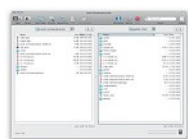
Our shareware guru Craig Grannell looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

Mac
FORMAT
On the
DVD

Find all reviewed
titles on this issue's
MacFormat disc

SNIPPETS

Fated Transmit Permanence



At the time of writing, it's a crisp September afternoon and we've learned that *Transmit* (formerly *Transit*) from Panic (panic.com) is ten years old. So, here's wishing a belated happy birthday to our favourite FTP application! And if you're thinking this is just an excuse to mention *Transmit*, because we haven't in a long while... well, you're probably right. But, hey, it's a great app, and surviving for ten long years is a great achievement in this age of quick-fire software development. They grow up so fast! Sniff.

I want my LCD



When rummaging around shareware and freeware sites looking for gems, we occasionally unearth bizarre yet compelling software. A case in point: *LCD Editor 1.1* (macupdate.com/info.php/id/28724/lcd-editor). This app is designed for "hobbyists interested in the use of HD44780-based LCD displays", assisting with the definition of custom characters and layouts. For us this meant a half-hour crafting space invaders and other retro graphics fun.

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

Clips 1.0.1

\$45 (£23) Multiple clipboard management like you've never seen it



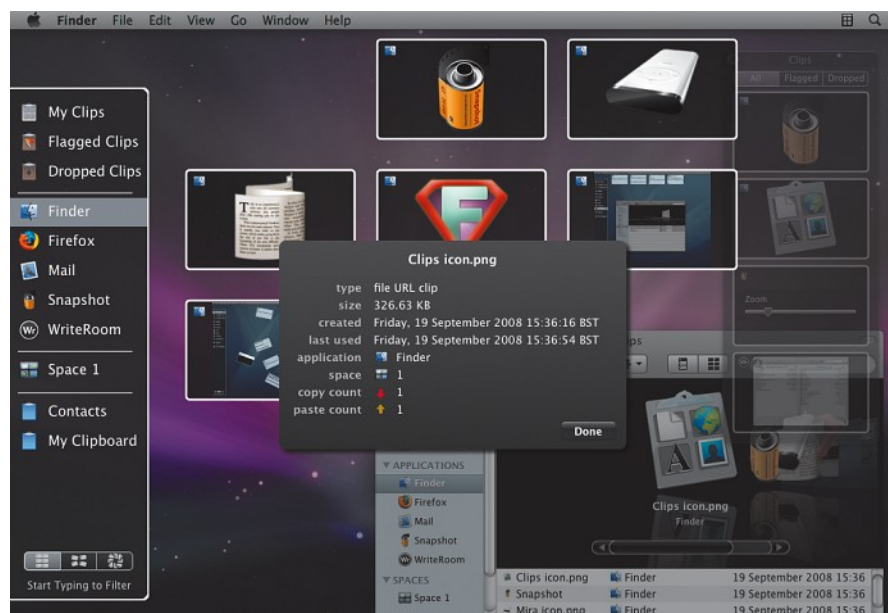
Presumably for simplicity's sake, Apple's never really updated the

clipboard – it cuts, copies and pastes, but that's it. For power users, the single clipboard is a limitation – a fact software authors have been keen to take advantage of.

Although several Mac clipboard utilities exist, most fail in some way, either by not offering enough features, or by being unintuitive and not particularly Mac-like. Clips is different, and it's perhaps the first time multiple clipboards have been done properly on the Mac.

Clips offers several Mac-like means of accessing your clipboard history. There's the Dashboard-like Board, the *Finder*-like Organizer, an Inspector-like floating panel, and optional access via the menu bar. Where *Clips* beats its contemporaries is that if you know how to use a Mac, you can make a good stab at using *Clips*, since its interface utilises common Mac conventions (this is just as well, since Conceited Software has unbelievably omitted any documentation whatsoever).

Over and above providing a clipboard history, *Clips* offers other useful features. Clips can be 'flagged', to stop them being purged, or filtered by application



"Clips is different, and it's perhaps the first time multiple clipboards have been done properly on the Mac"

or incremental keyword. Custom or smart folders can be created, and system-wide shortcuts applied to your favourite clips.

The power *Clips* provides is immense, although we do have a few minor reservations. During testing, it proved a little buggy and once stopped accepting new items (a glitch dealt with by

restarting it), and it's fairly memory-heavy. *Clips* is also relatively expensive, but like the similarly priced *Default Folder X*, we think it could become an indispensable part of your workflow. For that reason, it's well worth the investment and only narrowly misses a *MacFormat* Choice Award.

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Conceited Software
www.conceitedsoftware.com/products/clips
Vendor Conceited Software
www.conceitedsoftware.com

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Finally, an intuitive multiple clipboard that actually works in a Mac-like manner."

Snapshot 2.0.4

\$25 (£13) www.snapshotapp.com



The idea of *Snapshot* is to provide users with photo-lab-like control over image cropping, framing and printing. The interface is gorgeous and mostly works wonderfully, and the app's ability to resize images to standard photo sizes, crop and make adjustments non-destructively (via intuitive zooming/moving controls and sliders) and print multiple images per paper sheet betters *iPhoto*'s equivalent features.

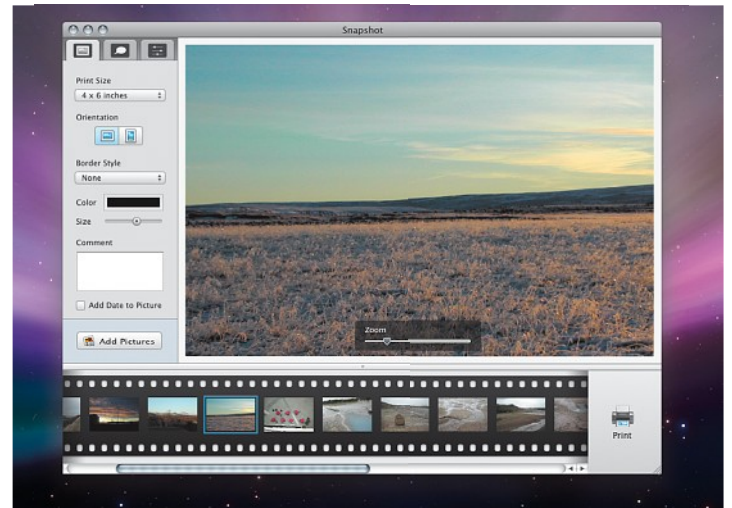
Usefully, direct *iPhoto* integration is provided – you can navigate your

library and albums, resize thumbnails and add selected pictures to *Snapshot* with ease. You can also select an alternate source or drop images on to *Snapshot* from *Finder*. The only niggle we had was that the included border styles are dreadful and the speech balloon captions a pointless gimmick, but they're easy enough to ignore.

VERDICT



"A little pricey, perhaps, but a great utility for photo-printing Mac users."

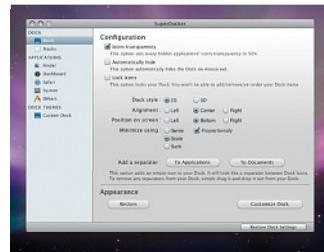


SuperDocker 3.0.3

£FREE www.superdocked.com/?page_id=252



This application could be called Yet Another System Tweaker. It enables you to mess about with your Dock (alignment, style, appearance via iContainers or self-made images), Stacks, *Finder*, Dashboard and a handful of other things. The interface is straightforward, if vaguely non-standard, most of the functions work well enough, and it's free. However, *SuperDocker* doesn't really offer anything new, bar, perhaps, the jolting Dock reboot after every single change that's made.



VERDICT



"Nothing new, but if you need an app like this, it may as well be *SuperDocker*."

Fantasktik 1.1

\$10 (£5) www.docklandsoft.com/fantasktik



Fantasktik differentiates itself from other taskbars by offering an application-based, preview-led approach. Application window tabs are grouped and are collapsed by double-clicking an application's icon. Hovering over one provides a large preview. *Fantasktik* is a great idea executed poorly. Moving the taskbar is buggy, and options are needed for system-wide hot-keys and more flexible views. And with many open windows, tabs vanish from the right of the bar, which is problematic.



VERDICT



"A classic Mac taskbar in the making, but it's not there yet."

Mira 1.3.1

\$16 (£8) www.twistedmelon.com/shop



It's safe to say the Apple Remote is an underused component of Macs. *Mira* is a *System Preferences* pane that enables you to control a number of applications from across the room, with each one given specific action/keystroke sets. *Mira* also offers a configurable launch menu, to switch applications. Although *Mira* lacks the power of some of its contemporaries, its ease of use is sure to attract those looking to get more out of their Apple Remote, and we found its no-nonsense and intuitive approach compelling.



VERDICT



"A simple and affordable add-on for getting more from your Apple Remote."

Tofu 2.0.1

£FREE www.amarsagoo.info/tofu



A disadvantage of the digital realm's infinite space is readability – or rather the lack thereof. When windows become too wide, digital text files in the likes of *TextEdit* can become uncomfortable to read. *Tofu* tries to deal with this by aping magazine-like narrow columns. In practice, this makes reading text files much easier. Unfortunately, execution is imperfect: the application suffers from redraw issues and, although various file types are supported, its rendering of documents is unpredictable.



VERDICT



"A fantastic idea marred by flawed execution, but worth a look."



MULTIFUNCTION DEVICES

Wireless wonders

Words Christopher Phin Photography Gavin Roberts, Amanda Thomas

Printing, scanning, copying and more all in one device that also has a WiFi connection

A few years ago, when companies started talking off the record about a big shift towards multifunction devices (MFDs), it wasn't surprising. These boxes – that essentially bolt a scanner on top of a printer to give you both functions plus copying and more – are not only phenomenal value, but they're also convenient. Who wouldn't rather have one USB cable, one power cable and one device taking up space on their desk?

Now, though, they've evolved, and they're even handier; the USB cable is now strictly optional, with all five MFDs here sporting WiFi connections. This is liberating; now that so many of us have WiFi in our homes and offices, dropping a single unit that does

printing, scanning, copying and more into your network is a no-brainer.

Setting these multi-talented creations up, however, is a more complex job than just

“Now that so many of us have WiFi, a single unit that does printing, scanning, copying and more is a no-brainer”

plugging in a USB cable and pressing **⌘+[P]**, so we'll be testing them not just by print and scan quality, but also on how easy they are to set up and use. ▶

ON TEST

Brother
DCP-585CW **£88**



Canon Pixma
MP620 **£108**



Epson Stylus Photo
PX700W **£178**



HP Photosmart
C8180 **£175**



Lexmark
X4650 **£55**



Joining a wireless network can be done from the Epson, Brother and HP machines themselves, and via USB on the others.

TEST ONE

Setting up

How easy is it to set up a multifunction device?

Generally, we're impressed with how easy these MFDs are to set up. The Brother, Epson and HP allow you to join your wireless network from the device itself; in each case, an on-screen wizard walks you through the process of searching for the name (SSID) of your wireless router, then entering the encryption passphrase. This is slightly laborious on the Brother and Epson, involving selecting characters one at a time from a scrolling list, but the HP's touchscreen lays out a full keyboard. Annoyingly, it's alphabetical rather than QWERTY, but it's still welcome.

The Canon and Lexmark models, by contrast, have to be connected to your Mac over USB to set them up. It's a more controlled environment and

you can type your WEP/WPA password using your keyboard – but it's inconvenient to have to set the MFD up next to your Mac then move it to its wireless location. Kudos to Lexmark, though, for its picture-led setup; asking if you'd like it to join the same network as your Mac is a nice touch.

Epson gets a black mark for its mucky software install process that requires you to authorise each individual module's install.

RESULTS

Brother	★★★★★
Canon	★★★★★
Epson	★★★★★
HP	★★★★★
Lexmark	★★★★★

TEST TWO

Design

Does the design make the device easy to use?

Brother disappoints here, with a distinctly pedestrian design that lacks the elegance of the Canon. The buttons are squishy and there's a fair amount of rattle in the different elements. Design and engineering seem to have been an afterthought here, though we do like the side-mounted power port that lets you push the MFD flush against a wall.

The HP looks good next to Apple kit, though the anodyne swooshy white styling won't be to everyone's taste. The flip-up touchscreen is classy but, like the Epson's adjustable control panel, we lack confidence in the ratchet mechanism that holds it at an angle; both flex too much when you press on them to make adjustments.

We're not terribly taken with the Epson's detailing, either. Though it

looks good from a distance, there's a sloppiness about the fit and finish that feels cheap. That said, we do like the pop-out tray for CD printing; it's evidence that Epson thinks about how people use its printers, since we've mislaid plenty such trays in our time.

Top marks go to Canon. While the anonymous design isn't perfect – we'd have preferred a Brother-like power cable arrangement, and the pretty, scrollwheel-driven interface can be confusing – it's slick and feels solid.

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Epson's flip-up touchscreen is a nice addition, but its overall styling leaves room for improvement.

USING WIFI | Making work easier

Part of the reason for our focus on ease of use in this Group Test is that WiFi is simply an inherently complex thing. Any kind of networking – as distinct from dumb direct connections such as USB – is already pretty complicated, requiring a router or switch to ensure packets from and to each device on the LAN (Local Area Network) and beyond get to the right place. By the time you add in a wireless connection – with the different flavours of encryption, MAC address filtering, channels, SSIDs and more – what you have on your hands is a real mess.

We have to congratulate the manufacturers here, though. The setup processes we went through with the MFDs here were generally pretty painless, though in all cases you'll either need a decent feel for some networking basics, or have the patience and concentration to wade through wordy, unfocused manuals.

We were slightly concerned that we would find ourselves limited to very basic security settings on our networks, but we are delighted to report that all the printers here happily connected to the mixed WPA/WPA2

(WiFi Protected Access) network that our AirPort Extreme created. None of them makes it hard to discover their MAC (Media Access Control) address, either, so if you use MAC address filtering on your network to keep control of what devices can and can't connect to the network, it literally just takes seconds to add your new WiFi multifunction device to the whitelist.

With the exception of the Lexmark X4650, all the models in this Group Test also have an Ethernet port, so if

you'd like the additional security – speed isn't really an issue here – of a wired network, you can opt to use that instead.

To get your MFD running, you need access to a wireless network. The AirPort Extreme wireless router is ideal for a home network.





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The Canon cannot be faulted for its printing abilities; both its mono and colour prints are amazing.

TEST THREE

Printing

Can these MFDs print as good as standalone devices?

Even at the cheaper end of the market, the results here aren't bad. Try as we might, we couldn't get the Lexmark to align the printheads perfectly, but while that meant standard black text suffered from a little feathering to the right of standard black-on-white text, it was still usable. The Brother produced the poorest results – with furry, washed-out text and extraordinarily dull colours on plain paper – but at the other end of the price spectrum even the Epson didn't acquit itself well. Text and images are well-formed, yes, but there's a greyness to them both which is undesirable.

Canon and HP are tied for top spot. HP just has the edge for text, with fantastically black characters laid down on the page with impressive

clarity; text printing is a traditional strength of HP inkjets, and the C8180 does nothing to harm that reputation.

The Canon MP620 is no slouch, though, and it proved itself to be the most consistent all-rounder. Most inkjets can turn out stunning results on expensive glossy paper, but this model is capable of excellent prints on plain paper, too. The blacks in photos are strong and the colours vibrant, especially next to the lacklustre images from the Brother.

RESULTS

Brother	★★★★★
Canon	★★★★★
Epson	★★★★★
HP	★★★★★
Lexmark	★★★★★

TEST FOUR

Scanning

How do the scanners compare against each other?

Here's the big secret with scanners: they're all good. Five years or so ago, the technology matured to such an extent that a fifty quid scanner could produce scans that, depending on the person doing the scanning, ranged from acceptable to superb. That's in part why MFDs are such good value these days; it's cheap to bolt a decent scanner onto a cheap printer and share infrastructure costs.

Despite Canon's strong showing elsewhere, the MP620 is weak here. Colours are well-realised and the driver software is flexible, but there's an unexpected softness about the results. Even the MP620 produced scans that were more than good enough, especially if you take the time to tweak the software and apply some sharpening; by contrast the HP needs

the opposite treatment, as it applies too much sharpening by default.

In theory, all these devices allow you to scan over the network to your Mac, but in practice we couldn't coax the Epson or Lexmark to do this. We don't doubt that it's possible, but we found it easier to scan to a USB stick.

Bonus marks to Canon and HP, both of which made it simple to send scans using their control panel directly to our Mac; this is offered by all models, but only worked on the Canon and HP.

RESULTS

Brother	★★★★★
Canon	★★★★★
Epson	★★★★★
HP	★★★★★
Lexmark	★★★★★



No device is faultless when scanning, but the Brother is the weakest of the bunch.

COLOUR PRINTING | Ink cartridges

In the bad old days, colour printers came with two cartridges; one was black and one contained three smaller chambers that held the cyan, magenta and yellow that the majority of printers lay down in tiny dots to create the many thousands of colours in photos and documents. (Actually, some early, low-end printers didn't even have both these tanks side by side, requiring you to mix the cyan, magenta and yellow from its single tri-colour cartridge to create a kind of muddy brown that represented any black in a colour image.)

This is extremely wasteful. Let's suppose that you largely print letters that include your

company's red logo. The magenta and yellow tanks will quickly empty as they're mixed to create that red, but the cyan will stay full; once the magenta and yellow are empty, you have to throw the whole thing out.

In this group, however, only the very cheapest model uses this system. The rest all have individual ink tanks, so you only replace each colour when they run out. It's perhaps not as green as it sounds – the manufacturers are still damnably fond of ridiculously over-packaging these tiny cuboids of ink – but the theory is solid.

An added advantage of this system is that you can mix in other colours of ink. While some

high-end printers will add green, red and blue inks to extend their colour gamut, at this level the best we can hope for – and something we see in the models from both Epson and HP – are light cyan and light magenta cartridges, used in conjunction with their full-strength counterparts to produce subtle paler tones that avoid speckling.



Most printers' ink cartridges are separate now to prevent wastage and provide true colours.



The HP is one of the stronger MFDs for copying, producing decent copies in just over half a minute.

TEST FIVE

Copying

They don't just print and scan, they can copy, too...

All five models can do mono and colour copying without requiring a computer. Results, however, vary enormously, both in terms of quality and speed.

Each was set to its defaults and asked to produce a copy of a page that contained text, vector shapes and bitmap images.

Speed first. Lexmark triumphed in the mono stakes, with the print dropping into the output tray 15 seconds after pressing the button. Epson's was about the same, with the Canon taking 20 seconds, and only the HP and Brother keeping us waiting around at 35 seconds. Switch to colour, though, and the Lexmark jumped to almost a minute and a half. The Epson and HP take about the same to do a colour as a mono copy,

while the Canon and Brother take 33 and 43 seconds respectively.

Canon again impresses us the most with its print quality; the results are vibrant and sensitively handled. HP doesn't fare as well as with the pure print tests, with heavy-handed mono prints obscuring fine detail.

Again, the output from the Brother and Epson are dull; at least the latter is crisp. Lexmark's output suffers from banding and its colour copy is a little overexposed, but copies are okay.

RESULTS

Brother	★★★★★
Canon	★★★★★
Epson	★★★★★
HP	★★★★★
Lexmark	★★★★★

TEST SIX

Value for money

Are these machines worth their price tags?

Perhaps not surprisingly, the big winner is the cheapest model, and the big loser is the most expensive. Lexmark's £55 baby might feel worryingly light, and we don't know what has been done to get the price so low, but it's undeniably fantastic value for money. No, the results don't compete with the Canon, but it outclasses the Brother.

With a hefty £178 price tag, the Epson Stylus Photo PX700W is remarkably poor value for money. It's packed with features, yes, and we love the slide-out tray that lets you print onto the face of special blank CDs and DVDs, but it's too much money for an MFD that produces dull prints, and no amount of 'print personalised photos with your handwritten greetings' glitz can make up for that.

The model from HP represents much better bang for buck. Its print quality is far superior, it can scan slides and negatives as well as normal photos, and includes a *LightScribe*-enabled burner to archive photos from your memory cards. In the battle to check off the most features on a specs list, the HP wins hands down.

Though it seems cheap, the Brother DCP-585CW is only twenty quid less than the Canon, and it produces distinctly mediocre prints and scans.

RESULTS

Brother	★★★★★
Canon	★★★★★
Epson	★★★★★
HP	★★★★★
Lexmark	★★★★★

For just £55, the Lexmark is amazing value for money, and it's better than some of the more expensive MFDs.



AND THE WINNER IS | Canon MP620

A couple of models knocked themselves out of the running early on. The Brother DCP-585CW looks and feels cheap, and while we like that it includes individual ink tanks and features some clever cable management, it's ungainly in use, and the prints it produces are lacklustre.

Poor print quality is the main reason we're sending the Epson Stylus Photo PX700W back in short order, too; it's capable of good detail, but everything's washed out. The flip-up control panel lost its ability to stay up within a week; we want better quality from a printer that costs three times that of the cheapest in this group.

Though it uses a two-cartridge ink system and is roundly outclassed in the print stakes by

other models, we want to give this cheapest printer, the Lexmark X4650, a nod; if you're on a budget, you're not getting tat if you buy this.

The Canon MP620 gets the gong, though. It's not just that it produces the best prints, there's simply evidence of a lot of thought that has gone into its design. We love the paper cassette that slides inconspicuously under the main body – there's a standard rear feed for photo paper, say, too – and we're big fans of the fact that when you send it a print job, it automatically drops down the door covering the output tray; if it's tucked away in another room, this kind of set-it-and-forget-it mindset is invaluable.



FINAL VERDICT

★★★★★

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."

Mac
FORMAT
Winner

★★★★★ Buyers' guide



Sponsored by
techradar.com
Deep into technology

How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

Last month we saw the new iPod line-up and this month it's the turn of the laptops to receive an update. Most notably, the MacBook and MacBook Pro have taken on a new look; they're both now made from precision aluminium, which is the same material as the MacBook Air. The entry-level MacBook, however, is still available in the familiar white polycarbonate case.

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose between a laptop or desktop. If you work on the move then a laptop is best, but these do have small screens and fiddly keyboards. And they actually cost more than a lower-end desktop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £719 and is great for less intensive work, like the *iLife* apps. The MacBook Pro, starting at £1,399, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs as they run at higher

DID YOU KNOW?

The MacBook Air's Multi-Touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*



speeds and have a faster hard drive. The 17-inch version and higher-end 15-inch version have more RAM and bigger hard drives, so are great for designers needing that extra power and storage space. The thin

MacBook Air is ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. There is no CD/DVD drive included; an external SuperDrive will cost you £65.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4



"All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"





or 2.53GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.5GHz version machine, too. And you can now upgrade the 2.53GHz Pros to 2.8GHz for an extra £210. The MacBook and MacBook Air only come with 13-inch screens.

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £399 you get a 1.83GHz machine with a Combo Drive, or a 2.0GHz mini with a SuperDrive for £499. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse.

The new iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.4GHz, 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.8GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz, from £799. These all-in-ones now have the power to almost rival a Mac Pro, although for real intensive work you will need to buy Apple's

high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,429, but with the option of 32GB RAM

upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune.

If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's new 24-inch LED Cinema Display for £649 is ideal, or the regular Cinema Displays start from just £399.

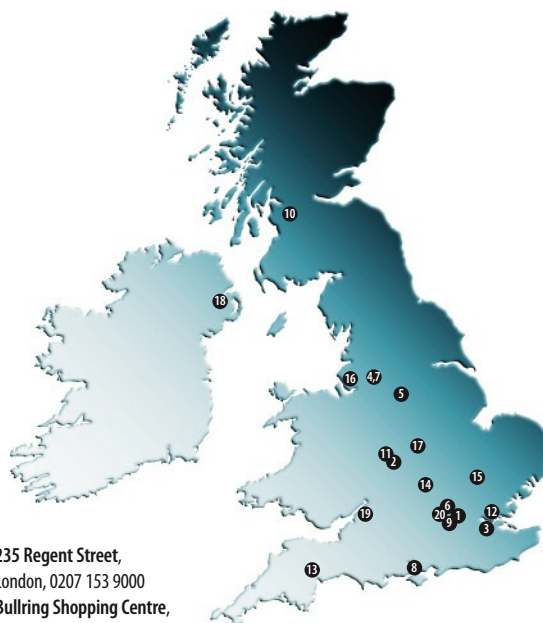
All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '08* software, so you can organise photos, make and store music, build websites and create movies to burn to a DVD.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new aluminium MacBooks lack a FireWire port, but you still get one on the cheaper £719 white MacBook



APPLE STORES IN THE UK



1 235 Regent Street, London, 0207 153 9000

2 Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham, 0121 260 1900

3 Bluewater Shopping Centre, Greenhithe, Kent, 01322 640 100

4 Trafford Centre, Manchester, 0161 240 1000

5 Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield, 0114 212 1000

6 Brent Cross, London, 0208 359 1050

7 Arndale Centre, Manchester, 0161 216 4570

8 WestQuay Shopping Centre, Southampton, 023 8030 1050

9 Bentall Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, 0208 213 2020

10 147 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, 0141 300 4950

11 147 Touchwood Centre, Solihull, 0121 224 1300

12 Lakeside Shopping Centre, Grays, Essex, 0170 871 7500

13 24 Princesshay, Exeter, 0139 231 6600

14 26 Midsummer Place, Milton Keynes, 01908 856 650

15 Grand Arcade, Cambridge, 01223 253 600

16 Unit 95, Paradise St (West), Liverpool, 0151 472 2600

17 Upper Mall, Highcross, Leicester, 0116 201 1900

18 1 Victoria Square, Belfast, 028 9016 1900

19 11 Philadelphia St, Cabot Circus, Bristol, 0117 900 3450

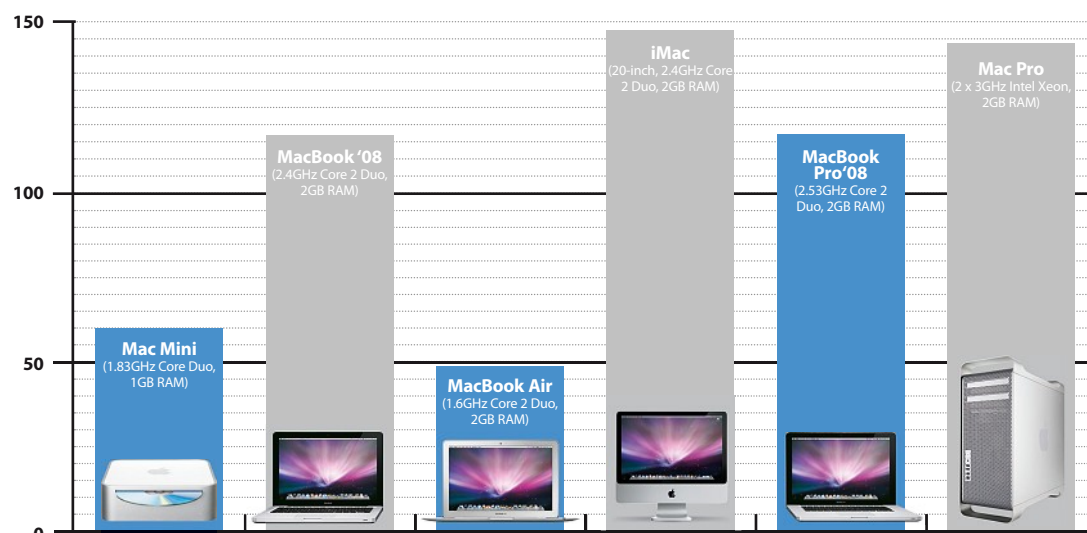
20 Westfield London, Ariel Way, London 0208 433 4600

BENCHMARKS | Which Mac is fastest?

We've used Xbench (www.xbench.com) to compare Apple's latest Macs. We've taken its overall score on each Mac as a rough guide to its overall system performance and speed. Please remember that this result is only an indication of the system's overall performance, and doesn't take into account some aspects, such as the improved 3D graphics capabilities of the new aluminium MacBook and the even better 3D graphics performance of the new MacBook Pro.

THE RESULTS (Xbench)

Mac mini	67
MacBook	127.49
MacBook Air	49.68
iMac	146
MacBook Pro	129.1
Mac Pro	140.45



Your choice of Apple gear

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT PURCHASE



iMac

Updated April 2008



MacBook Pro

Updated October 2008

15-inch 2.4GHz £1,399

15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB (two SO-DIMMs)
250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and 9600M GT graphics card with 256MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium unibody
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote
+ Great new aluminium body
- Screen still small

15-inch 2.53GHz £1,749

15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
6MB shared L2 cache
4GB (DDR3 SDRAM - 2x2GB)
320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M and 9600M GT graphics card with 512MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium unibody
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote
+ Improved HD space and RAM
- Upgrade options could cost

17-inch 2.5GHz £1,949

17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
2.5GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache
4GB (2x SO-DIMMs of DDR2 SDRAM)
320GB 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
Aluminium body
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote
+ Good upgrade options
- Puts a big dent in the wallet

20-inch 2.4GHz £799

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
250GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote
+ Great value
- Bigger HD would be nice

20-inch 2.66GHz £949

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB memory
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote
+ 2GB memory
- Wired mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.8GHz £1,149

2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB memory
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote
+ Impressive specification
- £34 extra to go wireless

24-inch 3.06GHz £1,389

3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme
2GB memory
500GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GS with 512MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote
+ Fastest ever iMac
- Could spend loads upgrading

One 2.8GHz Quad £1,429

One 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- +** Great value for money
- Could spend loads upgrading

Two 2.8GHz Quad £1,749

Two 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- +** Great configuration options
- Upgrade options tempting

Two 3GHz Quad £2,249

Two 3.0GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- +** Two 3GHz Quad processors!
- Too many upgrade choices?

Two 3.2GHz Quad £2,758.99

Two 3.2GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
Five USB ports
Two FireWire 400 ports
Two FireWire 800 ports

- +** The fastest Mac ever
- Do you really need it?

Mac mini

Updated
August
2007



1.83GHz 80GB £399

1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
80GB hard drive
2MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

- +** Excellent value for money
- Poor for 3D graphics

MacBook Air



Updated
October
2008

13-inch 1.6GHz £1,299

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

- +** Thinstastic!
- SuperDrive is an extra £65

13-inch 1.86GHz £1,799

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
128GB solid-state drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

- +** Great lower price!
- Still needs extras

Mac Pro

Updated
January
2008



2.0GHz 120GB £499

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
120GB hard drive
4MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Apple Remote and DVI to VGA adaptor

- +** More hard drive space
- Still not ideal for gamers

13-inch white 2.1GHz £719

13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels
2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
1GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- +** Great value
- Could use more RAM

13-inch 2.0GHz £949

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- +** Stunning new look
- No FireWire port



MacBook

Updated
October
2008

13-inch 2.4GHz £1,149

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- +** Illuminated keyboard
- MacBook Pro only £250 more



"The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use"

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your iTunes window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a more generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices, especially now that Apple has announced new prices and new looks.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's

current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The new 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the entry-level 1GB iPod shuffle.

The best compromise is the new-look iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5 inch diagonal screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the improved 8GB and 16GB

capacities are sufficient for many. The choice of colour now is vast, and there's definitely a nano for everyone. These are going to be big sellers!

The iPod touch is in another league altogether. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone.

DID YOU KNOW?

The various iPod flavours represent almost three-quarters of the market; Microsoft's Zune has 2.6%



iPod classic

Updated September 2008

iPod classic 120GB

£179

Up to 30,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 150 hours of video
Available in black and silver
2.5-inch screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
103.5x61.8x10.5mm
140g



iPod shuffle

Updated September 2008

iPod shuffle 1GB

£32

Up to 240 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g

iPod shuffle 2GB

£45

Up to 500 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g



iPod touch

Updated
September
2008

iPod touch 8GB

£169

Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB

£219

Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB

£289

Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g



iPhone 3G

Updated
June
2008

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g



iPod nano

Updated
September
2008

iPod nano 8GB

£109

Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£149

Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

IPHONE vs IPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might

think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's

(admittedly pretty crappy) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls, both of which it originally lacked.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

TOP GEAR

Extend your Mac with our pick of peripherals and software

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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★



Price: £29
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10



- ✚ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
- ✖ May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."



Apple Wireless Keyboard

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin



- ✚ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
- ✖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work



Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth



- ✚ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
- ✖ Odd acceleration behaviour

DISPLAYS

Apple 23-inch Cinema Display ★★★★★



Price: £599
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 23-inch (viewable), Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible



- ✚ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
- ✖ No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with this 23-inch Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."



Eizo FlexScan S2110W

Price: £505 **Reviewed:** Issue 182
Full review: www.techradar.com/48701
Key specs: 1,680x1,050 res; 2x digital DVI, USB2.0



- ✚ Smart features; brilliant picture; easy to use
- ✖ Expensive



Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

Price: £698 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res



- ✚ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
- ✖ Need a lot of room to house it!

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP6600D ★★★★★



Price: £87
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53946
Key specs: Thermal inkjet; A4 prints; 9,600x2,400dpi; six-ink printing; duplex printing; DVD/CD label printing; memory card readers; PictBridge socket



- ✚ Large LCD display; twin paper sources; DVD/CD label printing; duplex printing
- ✖ Slight fuzz on black text; slow compared to non-photo printers

"The iP6600D is a versatile printer giving quality prints, with more bells and whistles than a Morris-dancing troupe of football refs."



HP Photosmart A618

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: 3-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi



- ✚ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
- ✖ Bit slow



Canon PIXMA iP100

Price: £160 **Reviewed:** Issue 199
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; USB 2.0; Bluetooth



- ✚ Compact; excellent results; strong build
- ✖ Lack of camera card slots

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon CanoScan 8600F ★★★★★



Price: £149
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225903
Key specs: Charge Coupled Device; A4 max print size; document/film scanner; FARE level 3 scratch removal, 7x EZ buttons; Adobe Photoshop Elements 4; LaserFast SE; ScanGear CS



- ✚ Excellent software bundle; produces speedy scans; good quality results
- ✖ Quite bulky

"It's fast, versatile, not too expensive and comes with a very impressive bundle of software. This is the best scanner by far."



Canon PIXMA MP610

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi



- ✚ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
- ✖ Slow duplex printing



Canon PIXMA MX700

Price: £131 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR



- ✚ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
- ✖ No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★



Price: £138
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-15mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

- Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
- Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."



Canon EOS 40D
Price: £799 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

- Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
- Some idiosyncratic functions



Pentax Optio M50
Price: £132 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

- Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
- Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station ★★★★★



Price: £119
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

- Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
- UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."



Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N
Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/31179
Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

- Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates
- Not the best looking device



Apple AirPort Express
Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

- Easy to set up; iTunes is great; supports Windows
- Still need to add a broadband router

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

JVC GR-DF470EK ★★★★★



Price: £264
Web: www.jvc.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/72721
Key specs: 15x optical zoom, 700x digital zoom; 2.5-inch LCD; 2.6-39mm focal length; MiniDV media – 8MB card supplied; mic socket; remote; 400g; 75x111x74mm

- Solid build; great value for money; lots of features
- May need to keep manual at hand

"It's packed with features and built to last. The JVC GR-DF470EK is a quality camera at a staggeringly affordable price."



Canon HV30
Price: £603 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card

- Superb stills & video; better than HDD; fast imports
- Cumbersome to use



Canon HG10
Price: £670 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

- Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
- Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★



Price: £158
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; Dantz Retrospect backup software; FireWire 400 cable

- Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast
- Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."



Western Digital My Book Pro
Price: £140 **Reviewed:** Issue 173
Full review: www.techradar.com/47284
Key specs: 500GB capacity; FireWire 400/800/USB 2.0

- Slim build; lightweight; elegant; brushed metal
- Too delicate for some people's tastes



Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4
Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/380224
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

- Lots of connection options; cheap; small footprint
- Can get hot; no LED indicator

HOW TO BUY...

iPhone apps

1 WHY?
 You've got an iPod touch or an iPhone. Why not make the most of it by downloading some of the brilliant third party apps from the App Store?

2 PAID OR FREE?
 When you browse the App Store you can see the top 20 free and top 20 paid-for applications. Many paid-for apps have a trial or 'lite' version that's worth trying out before you part with your cash. Don't forget you can also see what's available at www.apple.com.

3 HOW MUCH?
 You shouldn't be paying as much for an iPhone app as you would for a full Mac app, so they should be around £5.99.

4 WHAT'S HOT?
 Cro Mag Rally recently got a price cut and is proving to be the most popular game, but don't miss great free apps – like the ebook reader *Stanza*.

5 WHAT ELSE?
 One of the cool things about a third party app is that if you delete it from your iPhone then you can download it again without paying. *iTunes* doesn't do this with music, films or TV shows.



Editor's choice



Where Graham's cash is heading...

Apple MacBook 2.4GHz

Price £1,149

Manufacturer Apple

Web www.apple.com/uk



Credit crunch be damned.

The next Mac on my shopping list is going to be Apple's new aluminium 2.4GHz MacBook. Sure, it's more expensive than its predecessor by a whopping £200, but I'm a sucker for the aluminium body and backlit keyboard. It's also the first MacBook to really tackle 3D gaming. It's not a cutting-edge 3D gaming platform, but at least 3D games will be playable.

The only thing that causes me to doubt my decision is the lack of a FireWire port. I think it's too early for Apple to be dropping FireWire in favour of USB 2.0. As Steve Jobs says, most of the HD camcorders released in the last couple of years have been USB 2.0, but that's no use for people like me who own a FireWire camcorder that I'm happy with. So, either I use my old MacBook for importing from my camcorder, or spend even more money on a new one, and neither of those choices strike me as ideal.

Lack of FireWire port aside, the new MacBook is gorgeous, and I love the new style glass surface trackpad. I want one!

"The new MacBook is simply gorgeous, provided you can live without FireWire."

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007 ★★★★★



Price: £395

Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/98316

Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini); 4x speaker outputs (mini); 1x subwoofer output; 4x 16W RMS

- Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
- Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."



Acoustic Energy Aego-M

Price: £130 Reviewed: Issue 191

Full review: www.techradar.com/100419

Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output



- Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
- Not many extra features



Dynaudio MC15

Price: £736 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/458611

Key specs: 55Hz-21KHz; 8 ohms; 2x50W RMS



- Excellent sound; good design and build; easy setup
- Expensive

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Gear4 BluEye ★★★★★



Price: £50

Web: www.gear4.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/226518

Key specs: For fourth- and fifth-gen iPods, iPod mini and iPod nano

- Answer calls by remote; great sound quality; voice-activated dialling
- Nothing at all

"Quite possibly the best iPod accessory we've ever seen. It really is that good and deserves the accolade. Buy one now!"



iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

Price: £92 Reviewed: Issue 193

Full review: www.techradar.com/224088

Key specs: 10m range; easy USB connection



- Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
- High price



Macally TunePro Flat Panel

Price: £60 Reviewed: Issue 191

Full review: www.techradar.com/218943

Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg



- Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
- Remote sold separately

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★



Price: 8GB, £99; 16GB, £149

Web: www.apple.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/464874

Key specs: Silver, black, purple, green, orange, yellow, pink and PRODUCT (RED); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 4hrs video; 90.7x38.7x2mm; 36.8kg

- Looks fab; great prices and capacities; vertical screen works well; accelerometer
- No charging via FireWire

"A beautifully evolved music player that should delight everyone. The available array of colours with this version are gorgeous, too!"



Apple iPod classic

Price: £179 Reviewed: Issue 188

Full review: www.techradar.com/226641

Key specs: 120GB; black or silver; video playback



- Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
- Must re-buy purchased games



Apple iPod touch

Price: From £169 Reviewed: Issue 201

Full review: www.techradar.com/464926

Key specs: 8, 16 and 32GB available; WiFi browsing



- Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
- Not cheap!

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III ★★★★★



Price: £230

Web: www.project-audio.com

Full review: www.techradar.com/102079

Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, gold-plated RCA phono sockets, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk, dust cover, available in matt black and silver.

- Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
- Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is an outstanding product – and that's before you've added a USB interface."



Line 6 Pocket Pod

Price: £57 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/457821

Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack



- Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
- Slightly clunky interface; lacks some pro functions



Imono HI-2503

Price: £17 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/458087

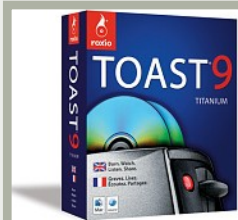
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0



- Cheap; efficient; easy to use; supports IDE and SATA
- No protection from debris

HOME OFFICE

Roxio Toast 9 Titanium ★★★★★



Price: £70
Web: www.roxio.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/311459
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or Mac OS X 10.5; 600MB hard disk space; 15GB temporary free disk space during usage; CD, DVD or Blu-ray recordable drive; QuickTime 7 or higher



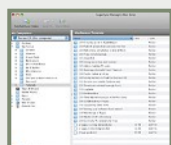
- Superb bundle; HD video burning (with plug-in); bundled backup app
- ➡ Expensive upgrade

"Toast 9 Titanium is a great suite and still the burning king, but think carefully before buying the relatively expensive upgrade."



Scrivener 1.0
Price: \$35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/33080
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4

- Reliable; great for writers; top export options
- ➡ Nothing



Sharpcast SugarSync
Price: From \$29 (£16) **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/469148
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4; 512MB RAM

- Access files when Mac is off; fast after initial upload
- ➡ No file versioning; no entry-level free version

GAMES

Spore ★★★★★



Price: £40
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1.024MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space for installation



- Great looks; design your world; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
- ➡ Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience painted on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's an amazing accomplishment."



Enemy Territory: Quake Wars
Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: Intel Core 2 Duo; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.5.1

- Objective-based gameplay; meaty weapons
- ➡ Looks bland in places

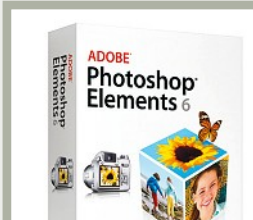


Sid Meier's Pirates!
Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Web: www.2kgames.com
System reqs: PPC/Intel 1.6GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4

- Atmospheric looks; lots of setup options; sea battling
- ➡ Nothing. It's great!

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★



Price: £58
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive



- Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
- ➡ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."



Lemke Software GraphicConverter 6.0
Price: \$35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 187
Full review: www.techradar.com/226888
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.4

- Opens anything; great batch processing; rich features
- ➡ Could do with a visual facelift



Softpress Freeway Pro 5
Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.11+

- Improved performance; great new Actions
- ➡ Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★



Price: £319
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive



- Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
- ➡ Old users may balk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."



Plasq Doozla 1.1
Price: \$25 (£13) **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Full review: www.techradar.com/354362
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.6+

- Great layout; lots of fun for kids and adults; stable;
- ➡ Nothing at all



Apple iTunes 8
Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551
System reqs: Intel/PPC G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9

- Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
- ➡ Genius recommendations affect performance

Review your options

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Mac FORMAT

ISSUE 202 December 2008

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New reviews this issue
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 • Fatman Red i speakers
 • VMWare Fusion 2

Clear out OS

GROUP TEST

TUTORIAL

REVIEW

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you!

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Aberdeen
davidyearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG

Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG

Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG

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[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG

Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland

Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College

Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts

Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users

Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG

Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
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http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[38] Three Counties MUG

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info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[39] Wessex MUGs

Horndean, Poole & Dorchester
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[40] Yorkshire MUG

Doncaster & other towns
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?

Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.co.uk



Picture courtesy of Grant Selby.

MUG OF THE MONTH

Isle of Wight AUG

Situated a couple of miles off the south coast of England, the Isle of Wight, renowned for its countryside, beaches, walking holidays and the odd music festival or two, is now home of the new Isle of Wight Apple User Group (<http://iowaug.org.uk>).

Despite the island only being 18 miles from top to bottom, it has managed to attract Mac users to share their common interest in Apple and to talk and support each other. The group was initially set up after an off-the-cuff remark about there not being one for the island.

The group is still small and very new (in fact there hasn't even been a meeting yet), but the website and forum have proved a great opportunity for members to

get to know each other. Getting the existence of the group publicised on the island has proved difficult, so we thought we'd give them a helping hand and a shout out in *MacFormat*.

Members of the group also talk of their specialist interests, including music, video, graphic design, photography, hardware and general programming. This breadth means that it is possible to find someone to help or offer assistance on most topics.

New members will receive a warm welcome and can get in touch via email (admin@iowaug.org.uk) or by signing up to the web forum. There are no fees to join and the initial funding to run the group has been covered for the first two years. ●

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical

help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders. To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org

NEW STARTER

Starting your own MUG?

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we will print the details here. Email us at macformat@futurenet.co.uk.

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Graham Barlow - Editor Macformat, April 08

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Games

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then heads for the Middle East



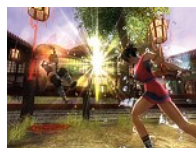
OUT...
2009

SNIPPETS

How many thrones?



Thanks to that sweet Cider technology, the third part of the *Sands of Time* trilogy – *Prince of Persia: The Two Thrones* – is now available on the Mac. Following his adventures in *Warrior Within*, the Prince returns to his home city only to find it ravaged by war. Time for more derring-do then. This third game features even more athletic abilities and a much more prominent role for the stealth gameplay used so sparsely in the second game. Reviewed next issue.



Jade goodies

Jade Empire is now available on the Mac. In it, you play the part of a martial arts master in training and have to pursue the way of the Open Palm or the Closed Fist (the Raised Cricket Bat is our discipline of choice) as you try to bring order to your empire. Do you conduct yourself in a civilised manner, or will you be of a more capricious temperament? The choice is yours, of course, but our advice is, go for evil: it's more fun and this is only a game. Again, this one's reviewed next issue.

RACING

ToCA Race Driver 3

Mac racing receives another turbo boost with the latest ToCA title

What is going on? First we get *FlatOut 2* (reviewed on page 126) and next we learn that the release of *ToCA 3* is imminent. Okay, these games are coming to us some time after PC release, but compared to the state of Mac racing just a year ago, it's like all our Christmases are coming at once.

Unlike other major racing franchises, which rely on a single style of racing, *ToCA* enables the player to try their skills across a broad range of driving disciplines. In *ToCA 3*, you'll get to compete in such diverse autosports as GT racing, 4x4 events, Rally championships, F1-style open-wheel racing, muscle cars, supertrucks, motocross, monster trucks, vintage races and any number of variations therein. Over the course of the game you'll get to take in 35 types of racing, 70 cars and 80 tracks.

The driving in *ToCA 3* can be quite punishing, but that's not to say that racing

"ToCA enables the player to try their skills across a broad range of driving disciplines"

novices will feel out of their depth, as there are several play modes to choose from. The World Career mode sees the player competing in 32 tiers of racing challenges across all the various racing disciplines. This will challenge even the best racers to see it through to the finish. Alternatively you can choose a specific race type and take part in a competition germane to that discipline. And if that too is a bit much to handle, single races and time trial modes should



Life in the fast lane has rarely looked so smooth. We await the Mac version...



All of the vehicle models are impressively detailed and authentic.

enable players to dip their toes in without getting the enthusiasm prematurely kicked out of them. And if you prefer your opponents to be more of the flesh-and-blood variety, go for the multiplayer mode.

It's a dazzling line-up of possibilities rendered all the more enticing by some truly titillating visuals. The scenery, while lovely, is the least of the treats on offer, given that the

vehicles are all nicely modelled and all subject to the rigours of extreme deformation (a good pummelling) in the event of shunts and smashes.

Assuming the port is a sound one, this should represent the pinnacle of Mac racing thus far and, as such, we urge you to join us for the full review – which should be next issue, fingers crossed. ●

FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare



£40 Duty calls again... this time to a thoroughly modern military conflict

CONTACT INFO

Developer Infinity Ward
www.infinityward.com
Vendor Amazon
www.amazon.co.uk

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core 2 Duo 2.0 GHz, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.4, 8GB hard disk + 1GB swap file, Radeon X1600, GeForce FX 7300 or better, 128MB VRAM, DVD-ROM drive

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Modern environment
- ⊕ Excellent set-pieces
- ⊕ Structured multiplayer
- ⊕ Accessible online play
- ⊖ Short campaign
- ⊖ Graphical anomalies

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An excellent conversion of an excellent game. A few graphical anomalies exist, but this is a superb first-person shooter in both solo and multiplayer modes."

It's all a bit *Silence of the Lambs* with your night vision on.



The creative well has run dry when it comes to the Second World War – at least for now. Fair enough, really. While the scale of that conflict always lends a certain gravity to the games set within its harrowing events, yet another frantic hunt for old radios and injured resistance fighters might be stretching it a bit. *Call of Duty 4* instead drops the player into a present day Middle East conflict featuring all the tasty military hardware that entails.

Stunning visuals

Before we get to gameplay, there's the question of visuals. There's no denying *CoD4* looks, in many respects, amazing. But there's something a little amiss. Whether or not it's limited to the graphics card we tested the game on (Radeon HD2600 Pro) we're unable to say at this point, but on the optimal (or default) settings *CoD4* looks a bit flat and unimpressive, whereas when the effects are bumped up it looks a little too shiny. Pumping the settings up to maximum didn't have any significant detrimental effect on performance, but the lighting and mapping occasionally produced some very pronounced results, causing extremely sharply defined reflections, especially on the combatants. Such



polished effects are desirable on a space marine's metallic armour, but on a grunt's balaclava or camouflage jacket, it looks very odd indeed. Nevertheless, the results are, overall, very smart.

The single player campaign is short compared to most games of this type, but it more than makes up for its brevity with dramatic flamboyance.

"The single player campaign is short, but it more than makes up for its brevity with dramatic flamboyance"

There are some exceptionally pleasing set pieces and atmospheric settings, so much so that – as with the *Half Life* series – one tightly designed and smartly choreographed level here is worth three in another, flabbier game. The general running and shooting gameplay is punctuated by some wonderful linking objectives, and often the missions are bookended by simple yet spectacular moments, like being in the midst of a helicopter

formation flying to a drop zone where you have to abseil to the ground under heavy fire, or leaping from a sinking ship in heavy seas to a waiting chopper. Even the opening credits provide some thought-provoking moments as you're placed in the shoes of a deposed Middle-Eastern leader as he's bundled into a cab, driven across town to a

claustrophobic environments) and 13 different play modes, so there's a lot here to play around with.

Multiplayer action

Better still is the structure of the multiplayer game. You start off as a snot-nosed private with limited skills and weapons, and a limited choice of classes (unit types). But get a few kills under your belt and you'll get enough experience points to open up additional units (such as demolitions operatives and snipers) and acquire perks, and gradually you'll climb the ranks.

Multiplayer modes can be unfriendly at the best of times, but the reward system in *CoD4*'s online options give novices a structured way of diving in at the deep end and gradually earning their stripes without feeling like a complete doofus.

Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare should on no account be missed. Even if you're usually only interested in solo play, this could be the game to really kick-start your multiplayer career. ●

RACING

FlatOut 2



£30 Hugely destructive racing comes to the Mac. Prepare for carnage

CONTACT INFO

Developer Bugbear Entertainment
www.bugbear.fi
Vendor Virtual Programming
www.vpltd.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Any Intel CPU, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11, GeForce 7300, Radeon X1600 or Intel GMA X3100 128MB, 4GB hard disk space, broadband connection for internet play and product registration

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Massively destructible cars and scenery
- + Loads of tracks and options
- + Hilarious stunt levels
- + Online play is a must
- For Intel Macs only
- Graphical glitches

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Another step in the right direction for Mac racing. This is a big, dumb game that'll pump the blood and tickle the ribs."

Remember the original *FlatOut*? Of course you don't. You were too busy playing Criterion's *Burnout* series on your consoles, and quite right too. But in the absence of *Burnout* on the Mac, *FlatOut 2* will have to do. And do you know what? It stacks up pretty well against its better-known and more glamorous rival.

Themes and courses

What's surprising is the amount of stuff on offer here. Opt to play through the Career mode and you'll have a monumentally challenging and long-lasting task on your hands. In terms of cups and races alone the developers seem to have taken the concept of value for money to ridiculous extremes. Between the Derby, Race and Street cups (of which there are nearly 30) you'll take in dozens upon dozens of races across forest, field, desert, canal and city courses, as well as many self-contained racing arenas (or bowl) events.

The gameplay, while varying across the play modes, essentially involves shunting, ramming, flipping and side-swiping your opponents out of the way in as extravagant a manner as possible, in order to gain turbo boosts and ultimately put them out of the race altogether.

Stunt mode sees the ragdoll feature back in action. Watch him fly.



The more success you enjoy, the more you can take advantage of the car shop in order to buy new vehicles or visit the garage to upgrade your existing cars.

Players familiar with the original *FlatOut* will be pleased to learn that the game's Ragdoll feature (namely the

responsible enough to include a loading screen advising players of the importance of wearing a seatbelt in real life.

Online play is also a blast. There are several options available, but should you buy the game let us simply point you in the direction of the Destruction Derby arenas,

Unfortunately *FlatOut 2* lets itself down visually. That's not to say it's a crappy-looking game: far from it. The trackside detail is excellent, the draw distance is impressive, the vehicles look great and the destruction and deformation of vehicles and scenery alike is admirable enough. But whoever was in charge of final testing needs a mechanic's steel toecap up the backside.

Visual letdown

Since when was it okay for water towers to float in mid air after having had their support beams smashed out from under them? Or, for that matter, when did it become acceptable for rear axles to rise mysteriously through the floors of flatbed trucks? The answer is: it wasn't, and it didn't, respectively. More attention to detail, please.

Otherwise, *FlatOut 2* is a splendid game. It's not quite up there with the best console games of the genre, but in the rather arid world of Mac-based racing, you'd be daft not to. ●

"Players familiar with the original will be pleased to hear that the Ragdoll feature is present in the sequel"

ability to crash your car so violently it sends the driver flying through the windscreen) is present in the sequel. While this feature plays a minor part in the Career mode, it comes into its own in the Stunt levels, which involve flinging your driver through the air in order to score points in such diverse events as ten-pin bowling, the high jump, darts, ring of fire and field goal. It's so wrong, and yet so right. It's not the sort of thing the DVLA would approve of, but at least the developers have been

which consist of several drivers, a big open space and one basic rule: be the last car running. It's total mayhem, and a stack of fun.

The soundtrack is also a well assembled aspect of the game, and you'll love the thumping sounds on offer. Well, you will if the soul-withering wails of Nickelback and Yellow Card float your boat. Okay, that line-up isn't quite our cup of tea, but it's just the sort of drive-time nonsense that serves as a perfect backdrop to this type of racing game.

PUZZLE GAME

Hidden Secrets: The Nightmare

Mac
FORMAT
On the
disc

\$20 (£10) A hidden objects game with a puzzling twist

Although they're clearly very popular, hidden object games can be a bit on the tedious side. After all, how many different ways are there to fill up a shopping list of items by pointing at stuff on a static screen? Not many, it seemed. But recently, independent developers have begun adding a bit more value and entertainment to these games and the results are pretty respectable.

Hidden Secrets: The Nightmare breaks up the potential monotony of finding stuff with a healthy dose of puzzles. In fact, the game is split 50/50 between finding things and solving puzzles.

In addition there's a tense storyline with a dark mystery at its heart that really pulls you

in. The protagonist is a woman whose seemingly happy family life is brutally interrupted by her attempted murder. After falling into a coma she finds herself experiencing hazy scenes from the day of the attempt on her life, and has to piece together her memory in the hope of discovering who she is and who has been plotting her downfall.

Each chapter shows us a new scene from her recent past and here's where the hidden object stuff comes in. In one scene you find yourself in a room containing a safe, but you can only get to it by finding a series of hidden objects. It's straightforward stuff, but the intriguing story keeps you interested.



Your brain appears to have been scanned in order to obtain the number to a safe. Technology, eh?

Over the course of the game there are 32 puzzle types, from sudoku-style challenges to weird puzzles involving shuffling around the neurons in your own brain.

It won't last more than a few sessions, but if you like the occasional casual puzzle-based game then this one should be somewhere fairly high up on your list. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Gogii Games
www.gogiiigames.com
Vendor Gogii Games
www.gogiiigames.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1.83GHz Mac, 512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4 (10.5 recommended)

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Engaging story
- + Fun hidden pics
- + Diverse range of puzzles
- + Replayable minigames
- Short
- Mostly unoriginal

VERDICT

★★★★★

"As hidden pictures games go this is an excellent one, with loads of atmosphere and a whole stack of puzzles."

ONLINE GAMING

InstantAction

£FREE Online first-person gaming in a browser? Surely not...

A few issues back we mentioned this new online gaming portal through which you can play first- and third-person 3D games online without the need to download gigabytes of software. The free beta version of the service is live and available to Mac owners and it's not half bad. Granted, you won't be trading in *Enemy Territory: Quake Wars*, but we urge you to give *Instant Action* a go because the four games in the initial line-up are surprisingly entertaining.

You do have to download a small chunk of code to enable the playing of the games through your browser, but it's tiny and considering the absence of any sophisticated graphics engine being

resident on your hard drive, the results are impressive.

There are four games on offer, the weakest of which is probably *Rokkit Ball*, a reworking of classic 2D team game *Speedball*. Though nowhere near as good, the ball capturing, goal-scoring action still has its moments.

Marble Blast can be played against other folks or as a solo game. The idea is simply to roll a marble through each level to the exit, avoiding hazards, using power-ups and overcoming obstacles of various descriptions.

Much slicker and more amusing is *Think Tanks*, a multiplayer tank battle across sprawling landscapes. There are strategic considerations to be made, but for the most part



Fallen Empires is a limited but superbly designed first (or rather third) person shooter.

you zip around in speedy tanks shooting the hell out of the opposition.

Topping the chart comes *Fallen Empire Legions*. There are only five maps, limited

play modes and a small arsenal of weapons, but in essence it feels like a proper 3D online shooter. Players can chat and enjoy the ingredients of a polished online blaster. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer InstantAction
www.instantaction.com
Vendor InstantAction
www.instantaction.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

512MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.5.4, Safari 3.1.2 or Firefox 3.0.1, dedicated 3D cards only

FOR AND AGAINST

- + It's free and fun
- + Four games to choose from
- + Great shooting games
- + *Fallen Empire* is a hoot
- Some games a bit basic
- Busy servers

VERDICT

★★★★★

"It takes up hardly any room on your hard drive, it's free and it's surprisingly good."

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Start up the *MacFormat* disc interface for more details.

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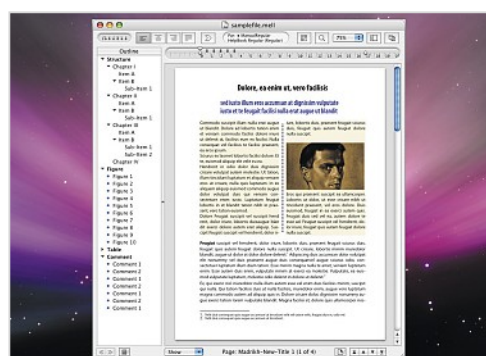


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Mellel 2.2.7.2

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The word processor market is dominated by Microsoft's behemoth, *Word*. However, a small Israel-based company continually strive to abide by *Mellel's* motto, 'Instead of trying to do things like Microsoft *Word* does, it tries to do things better'. It offers support for footnotes and endnotes, headings, outlines, styles, bibliographic citations, widows and orphans, hyphenation, multilingual support and a whole more. *Mellel* requires Mac OS X 10.3 or later.

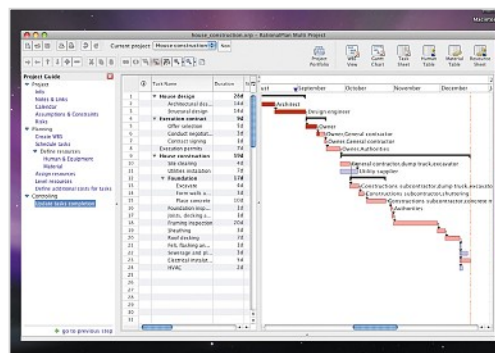


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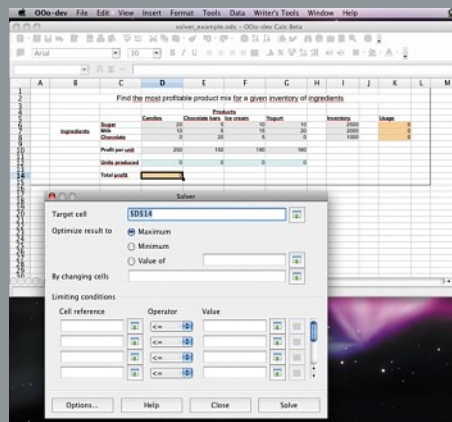
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OPENOFFICE.ORG 3

OpenOffice.org has come a long way since its humble beginnings as StarDivision's *StarOffice* before being purchased by Sun Microsystems in 1999 and being made available free of charge. The following year it was offered as a download under both the LGPL and the Sun Industry Standards Source Licence (SISSL) with the intention of providing a platform for an open source development community around the application.

Fast forward eight years and the third generation has been released, with the headline features being the ability to import documents from Microsoft Office 2007, support for the new ODF 1.2 document format, improved support for VBA macros and a native port for Mac OS X which requires no supporting environment software.



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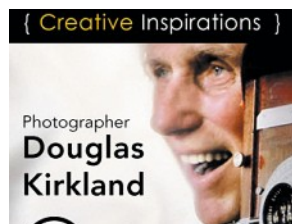


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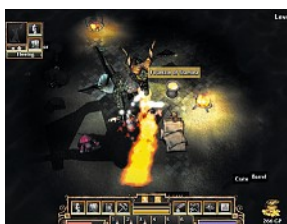


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Essential audio from the team

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SOFTWARE DEMO

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Games trials

Avert Fate 1.0
Dofus 1.25
FATE 1.0
FlatOut 2 1.0
Hidden Secrets
Rasches Kartenspiele 1.07

Recommended

Email Backup Pro 2.1
Mellel 2.5
OpenOffice.org 3.0
RationalPlan Multi Project
Sonicfire Pro 5.0
Stationery Pack 2.0

Top freeware

BottomFeeder 4.6
Camino 1.6.4
DrawIt Lite 1.3
JollysFastVNC 0.96.54
Livestation 2.1.1
MacTubes 1.3
Raw Photo Processor 3.7.9
Region X 1.6
Verbalize 5.0
VLC Media Player 0.9.4

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Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.



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